

from

Was Grandpa Really a Moron?
Critical Inquiries for a New American Century

by

Peter E. Hendrickson

Poisonous "Pieties" Serve The Enemies Of The People



ONE OF THE FAVORITE PLOYS OF DESPOTS and would-be despots to pacify the masses they intend to exploit is through the corruption of scripture and religious doctrine.

The classic example of this is the recital of Jesus' words, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's" in order to pacify an uncertain host so that a governmental parasite can more easily have its meal of taxes. This line is cited as though everyone is to take for granted that some percentage of the wealth they create or acquire is actually, and automatically, "Caesar's"!

This is nonsense, of course, both as to the matter of to whom any given wealth belongs, and that of what Jesus was really saying. All wealth (or a part of all wealth) DOESN'T belong to "Caesar", and Jesus DIDN'T say that it does. What Jesus said is, "Render unto Caesar THAT WHICH IS CAESAR'S..." The reality is that Jesus' admonition about "rendering unto Caesar" is a plain and straightforward endorsement of the principle behind legitimate excise taxation: an actor (such as the state) whose stuff was used to produce

wealth has a legitimate claim against the wealth, and it is proper that "his" part should be "rendered unto" him.

This is precisely how the "income" excise works. It is a tax on gains realized through the use of privileges, prerogatives and/or property belonging to the federal government, to part of which that government therefore has a legitimate claim. As used in the context of the tax, "income" means gains so realized-- any and all of which, by virtue of that legal character, potentially "belong to Caesar".

By virtue of the same principle, of course, the federal government has NO claim by way of this type of tax to gains NOT created or acquired through the use of its privileges, prerogatives and/or property, and a thorough study of the federal "income" tax structure reveals that the tax scrupulously abides by this limitation. We don't actually have any "Caesar" in America and we've never authorized the State to act as though we do; in fact, we've explicitly prohibited the State from trying act that way.

Properly understood (rather than in a corruption intended to serve the voracious State), and as expressed in the principles of excise taxation, what Jesus said is, "Render unto Caesar [ONLY] that which is Caesar's..."

But the fit of Jesus' admonition to the American "income" tax is even handsomer still, because there is another part to those famous words: "...and unto God that which is God's". This instruction, too, is directly reflected in the "income" tax, because the application of the tax is intimately dependent on testimony.

Surely those who would refer to "rendering unto Caesar" in encouraging the payment of taxes would not deny that what "is God's"-- in the sense of what is owed, and must be rendered, to God-- includes our adherence to morality, and that our adherence to morality includes scrupulous honesty in testimony we make! Surely such honesty involves saying what

Was Grandpa Really a Moron?

we know and believe to be true, and NOT saying what we DON'T know and believe to be true! Indeed, the latter actually has its own proscription in the core Judeo-Christian code: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

This moral obligation is called upon at the very heart of the "income" tax structure, in which payers of money are expected to report to the government payment of gains in which "Caesar's" stuff played a part (on the basis of which reports "Caesar" will then aggressively pursue his claim to a part of those gains). However, such payers are ALSO relied upon to scrupulously NOT report payments of gains in which "Caesar's" stuff was NOT involved (thus sparing the recipient from the improper burden of being obliged to suffer the effects of false testimony).

Similarly, the recipients of gains are relied upon to honestly report those receipts to which "Caesar" has a claim. But they, too, are just as much obliged morally (and legally) to NOT mischaracterize and report receipts to which "Caesar" DOESN'T have a claim.

In short, the "income" tax comprehensively requires us to adhere to both parts of Jesus' admonition to, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and unto God that which is God's".

Unfortunately, there are those who would have Americans misunderstand the plain meaning of these words. Some are the direct operators of the parasitic State, whose interest needs no explanation.

Others are corrupt symbiotes of the parasitic State. They encourage everyone to imagine that "Caesar" has a legitimate claim to everything because part of what is "rendered unto" finds its way into their pockets; or because they imagine they will be aggrandized themselves by a "Caesar" grown ever more swollen with wealth and power.

Some of these corrupt symbiotes encourage everyone to imagine that "Caesar" has a legitimate claim to everything

because they thereby curry "Caesar's" favor, and secure his beneficent attention to their policies and preferences; or because their policies and preferences can only be realized with the help of a swollen and powerful Caesar.

Some do it merely because they make a nice living helping everyone else do their "rendering".

Whatever their reasons, the "ignorance tax" despots and their accomplices can be marked by their habit of reciting the first three of Jesus' wise words, "Render unto Caesar..." and then just suggestively trailing off with a shrug and a smirk, in the hope that we'll all overlook the rest of those words and just "render up" (or stand silent in the face of false claims). Like the corrupt and cynical have always done, they encourage and exploit misunderstanding of the whole of the scriptural reference, just as they encourage and exploit misunderstanding of the "income" tax laws.

Let EVERY Soul Be Subject Unto The Higher Powers*

THE CORRUPT ABUSE of a scriptural reference discussed above is of a piece with another of even broader and more pernicious ill effect. The passage exploited in THIS sleazy ploy is a portion of chapter 13 of Paul's "Epistle to the Romans":

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

This passage is deployed to absurdly argue that it is the duty of every Christian to be the obedient and unquestioning subordinate of whatever political hack has most recently been granted an office by that same Christian and his neighbors!

Was Grandpa Really a Moron?

Somehow those making this argument forget to mention that the hacks they mean to see worshipped and obeyed as though kings by divine right are actually mere delegates, temporarily granted a smidgeon of the authority belonging to those this argument would have abuse themselves. Somehow they fail to observe that even this delegation of authority is strictly on a "good behavior" basis; and is subject to explicit, narrow written limits as to its range, depth and means of application.

Somehow, those making this "argument from scripture" for blind subordination to their favored political machine conveniently overlook just who is the "higher power" in America, and the fact that those who have temporarily been delegated some of the authority of that higher power have only been granted it after swearing an oath of faith and subordination to the law which formalizes that relationship.

Indeed, to the degree that Romans 13 has any meaningful application here in America, it is that any office-holder who violates any Constitutional provision-- even if only by acting on some creative, convenient interpretation, and even if that "creative interpretation" is endorsed by judges, lawyers, or anyone else-- is guilty of "resisting the power", and thus "resisting the ordinance of God" and has earned the appropriate sanction. It is sovereign individuals that are actually graced with power and authority-- not princes, and not politicians or political factions, however much it may have been princes who commanded the most swords in Paul's place and time.

Paul goes on to issue warnings of a more temporal character (in which we should appropriately substitute "they [are]" for "he [is]"):

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not

the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

Taking these words as authoritative, it is clear that properly understood, Romans 13 puts we, the people, under a moral imperative to execute our office as the "higher power", and closely supervise and discipline our servant governments. In that regard, we find Paul's words remarkably harmonious with others of a more recent vintage and specifically relevant to our American structure of government, such as these, from United States Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story's discussion of the Second Amendment in his 'Commentaries on the Constitution' (1833) (in which "rulers" is clearly meant to be understood as "office-holders"):

"The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these [usurpations] are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them."

THE CORRUPTION OF OUR TIMES runs deep, and there are few expressions of it more telling than sleazy exploitations of sacred texts such as those discussed above. Unfortunately, that fact doesn't hinder the ambitious and powerful in their use.

It is widely reported that pastors across the country have been encouraged by government officials to prepare for the false teaching of Romans 13 in order to pacify and subvert their congregations in the event a "national emergency" is declared. Indeed, this is said to have already been done by pastors in New Orleans to discourage resistance while federal troops were moving through the city disarming and taking

Was Grandpa Really a Moron?

prisoner those in safe areas who had chosen to remain in their homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. I can't verify the truth of these reports from personal knowledge, but I can attest that this false teaching has long had a voice in places throughout our American community.

Everyone must look to his or her own conscience for guidance in these matters. For my part, if I hear this nonsense preached, I will conclude that I am in the presence of an enemy.