

THE TRUTH AND WISDOM OF CHRIST (Mk. 12:13-17)

March 9, 2025

TEXT—Mark 12:13-17

MAIN IDEA—The truth and wisdom of Christ exposes hypocrisy and leads to the proper honor of God and man.

MEMORY VERSES—[Rom. 11:33-36]

THE LORD'S ENEMIES WERE TREACHEROUS (Mk. 12:13)—Threatened by the authority, popularity, and influence of Christ the Pharisees and the Herodians united. Even though they were bitter foes, they were brought together by their common hatred of the Lord. Therefore they united to plan a way to destroy Jesus.

Mark 3:2-6

Scheming against the Lord is a guaranteed loss on an epic scale (**See Psalm 2:1-12**)!

THE LORD'S ENEMIES WERE FLATTERING (Mk. 12:14)—Once again the Pharisees & Herodians display complete hypocrisy as they accurately compliment Jesus in the hopes that He would incriminate Himself before the Romans. Their flattering words weren't sincere, but only given with a goal of Jesus boldly replying so that His words would be used against Him.

Mt. 23:27-28

*The Romans taxed many things: imports, transportation, land, crops, and crops. They even taxed people for beyond their goods and land, just for being a person. This was the despised annual poll-tax that every citizen had to pay worth a denarius (one's day's wages). The tax was charged to all males ages 12 – 65 and females 14- 65.

Prov. 26:28; Prov. 28:23

THE LORD DISPLAYED TRUTH AND WISDOM (12:15-17)—Jesus saw through the hypocrisy of His enemies and openly called them on their attempt to trap Him (v15). Then He wisely

requested a denarius (a Roman coin) and to their amazement, creatively used it to exhort them on how to appropriately honor the government's authority and more importantly the ultimate authority, Almighty God's.

>Rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's means pay Caesar what is owed to him since you recognize his authority by using his coins.

Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17

Acts 5:29

Warren Wiersbe (1929-2019)--Jesus looked on taxes as the citizens debt to the government in return for the services performed. Today those services would include, among other things, fire and police protection, national defense, the salaries of the officials who manage the affairs of state, special programs for the poor and underprivileged, etc. The individual Christian citizen might not agree with the way all of his tax money is used, and he can express himself with his voice and his vote, but he must accept the fact that God has established human government for our good. Even if we cannot respect the people in office, we must respect the office.

>To Render to God the things that are God's is to give our lives to God in submission to His ultimate authority.

Gen. 1:26-27