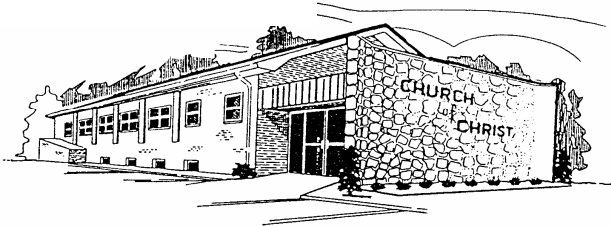


Teaching them to observe
all things...Matt. 28:20



The St. Joseph Observer

January 31, 2010

The St. Joseph Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday School
9:45

Sunday Worship
10:45

Sunday PM
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class
9:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study
6:00

Elders

Leo Conkin	925-7688
Clyde Daniel	428-2322
Charlie McGee	861-5811
Steve Parsons	465-7901

Deacons

Dave Hipskind	468-4735
Eric Ramsos	465-5965

Ladies' Prayer Chain

Kim Batson	428-7281
Barb Conkin	925-7688
Gayle Daniel	428-2322
Jan Mundy	473-1505

An "Income Tax" Mentality

By Charlie McGee

Americans tend to resent authority. It's our heritage. The colonists resented the British imposed taxation when they had no representation. That led to a revolution and the War of American Independence.

Immediately following the war, George Washington and the First Congress had a dire need to raise money to pay the enormous debt incurred to wage that war. What did they do? The very thing that we hated about the British... the brand new United States government imposed a tax. Initially, the tax was just on the sale of alcohol.

That created two responses. One, people intent on making whiskey continued to do so. But they did it outside the law.

The second response was people moved to places where the tax was not yet imposed. They moved to a new colony; Kentucky. They could make whiskey legally but avoid the tax.

It seems people are constantly looking for ways around the system.

The federal income tax was first enacted in 1862 to support the Union's Civil War effort. It was eliminated in 1872, revived in 1894, then declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court the following year. In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution made the income tax a permanent fixture in the U.S. tax system.

All kinds of exceptions/deductions have been defined that help us reduce our tax liability. As a matter of fact, an entire industry has developed whose sole purpose is to minimize the amount of tax we pay. In other words, their purpose is to help us pay the absolute minimum required by law.

For the most part, we don't mind paying SOME taxes in order to reap the benefit of having a government. The federal government supports the highway system across the nation. That's good. And there are a lot of others things the government can do to benefit its citizens.

Nonetheless, we don't want to pay any more than NECESSARY. And we certainly don't want to pay more than our neighbor. We take pride in how little we pay. It almost becomes a competition; first with the government, then with our friends. How little can we pay and still be "legal?"

Sometimes it seems that mentality creeps over into other things. Some people want to work and get paid and enjoy all the benefits of employment but they don't want to do any more than is absolutely necessary for them to keep their job. You've probably worked with some people like that. They do what they have to do to keep their job; no more, no less. They don't "get ahead" in their profession and they wonder why.

This mentality of doing as little as possible also finds its way into the church. We all want to go to heaven. We want salvation. We desire all the benefits of being Christians. But some people don't want to invest any more than is absolutely necessary in order to be saved. Somehow they have worked it out in their minds what is or isn't necessary. That perception can't be Bible based because nowhere does Jesus define "the minimum." There is no minimum. There is only the maximum. And the maximum is ALL. If Jesus is not THE priority, then we are not worthy to be His disciples.

Luke 14:26-27 (New Century Version)

"If anyone comes to me but loves his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters—or even life—more than me, he cannot be my follower. Whoever is not willing to carry his cross and follow me cannot be my follower."

Please remember in prayer...

- ***Members with Health Issues Leo Conkin, Warren James, Virginia Kowalski, Vanessa Matthews, Jim Smith, Lee Wallis, Juanita Weatherford***
- ***Friends & Family with Health Issues Bunnie Woods (Conkin's Daughter) Magalie (McGees)***
- ***The Military Nick Hastings, Ian Matthews***
- ***Our Church The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members***



Announcements

Today is 5th Sunday Potluck

Ladies' Fellowship-
 Tuesday Feb. 9th, 6:30,
 at Angie Salmon's.
 Menu: Soups & Salads

Congregational Calendar

January – February

31	1	2  Bernice Kittleson <i>Ladies' Class</i>	3	4	5	6  Aaleeah Shannon
7	8	9 <i>Ladies' Class</i>	10	11	12	13