

THE TAXMAN COMETH!

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It will soon be that dreaded day—April 15—when most Americans pay their income taxes. When our American forefathers stormed the Boston docks, threw out the British tea and cried, “No taxation without representation!”, they could not possibly have imagined what freedom from our mother country would bring. Certainly it brought untold treasure and opportunity, but along with all that, we now pay over 50% of our income in taxes of one sort or another. We now work half of the year just to do that. Many of those taxes are handed over on that depressing 24-hour period called April 15. Some might even be tempted to long for the “good old days”.

As an example, in 1935 Franklin Roosevelt started our new Social Security program promising it would only take 2% of our income. Today, it takes much more—15%. By now you can tell I’m not a fan of big government or quarterly checks to the IRS any more than anyone else, but I can say that I still appreciate and enjoy the many privileges of living in this country. The fact is, most Americans are far better off than their forefathers. We really shouldn’t complain, even as we try to bring down the taxes to a more reasonable level. Until that happens, however, April 15 is still the most dreaded day of the year for many Americans.

But what if something different happened on April 15 this year? What if, for once, you didn’t have to pay taxes on that day? None! What if instead it became the day you stand before someone bigger than the IRS? What if it were the day you died and stood before God? Paying taxes wouldn’t seem like such a terrible burden on THAT day, now would it? In fact, you might be happy to give everything you have, and then some, just to go back to your tax forms. What if everything you owed God came due in a moment? If you had not settled accounts through Christ beforehand, it would be too late no matter what you offered Him. Jesus said it best: *“What will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matthew 16:26).

The tax on living a sinful life before a holy God is eternity in hell. It is a JUST tax, if ever there was one. It may seem too much to most people, but that is only because they have a low view of God and His standards. They think they have been good compared to others, but they are comparing themselves to others like themselves, not to God.

On the other hand, that day could be much better than all other days you have ever known—IF your tax on life were paid by SOMEONE ELSE. Jesus Christ came to do that. He came to pay the just penalty for the sins of people like you and me so that we could stand forgiven and righteous before God.

Be sure, that day is coming. If you do not act in time, the day of your death or the day of Christ’s coming could arrive while you are still procrastinating—and this time you cannot file an extension. Your sin burden is FAR more serious than your tax burden. The Bible is very clear about this when it says, *“Today is the day of salvation”* (II Corinthians 6:2). You may work half your year to cover all your taxes in this country, but in hell it takes much longer—FOREVER.