*Wednesday, July 10, 2013*

**Mask**

John 10:9-10 I am the door: by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (KJV)

Today it’s time to uncover another mask that many preachers have been hiding under; their obligation when it comes to paying taxes. The reality is many are drowning because they have gone off the deep end trying to do an end run around what their obligation is concerning this topic. Church we are supposed to be an example of the believers and if we are sidestepping and tap dancing around the truth, we will find our self robbed blind.

James 5:4-5 Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, cried: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabbath. 5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. (KJV)

Oh that stuff in the book of James only refers to CEO’S of big corporations and not ministers. Really, well who built the road that your so called minister drove on to get to his building? How about the nice, convenient indoor plumbing fixtures that the city installed? The list goes on and on, but the bottom line is that those same ministers are not shy about reminding people of their obligations when it comes time to pass the plate are they?

Leviticus 19:12-14 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shall thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. 13 Thou shall not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. 14 Thou shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear thy God: I am the LORD. (KJV)

Many are robbing God the opportunity to work on their behalf and supply all their need by taking a shortcut when it comes time to pay their fair share of taxes. They hide under the mask of a 501-C3 tax law thinking it allows them to be exempt. I thought the Church was supposed to live by a higher law, that being a law of faith.

Jeremiah 22:12-13 But he shall die in the place whither they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more. 13 Woe unto him that builds his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that uses his neighbor’s service without wages, and gives him not for his work; (KJV)

What do you tell our Vets that are sitting in your congregations in need of assistance? Usually the buck is passed and the finger pointed at the government, but why wouldn’t you be willing to do your part and pay your fair share?

Matthew 17:25-27 He saith, yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, what thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto him, of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, then are the children free. 27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shall find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee. (KJV)

Given the fact that the Lord was sent to be our example then why are God’s people not following suit? The truth is they are letting the thief rob them blind.

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.