

The Handbook for Business, the Bible

Being prepared to pay your tax

Remember, Ben Franklin's famous quote - *"in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes"*

Granted, no one likes paying tax, but as Oliver Wendell Holmes declared, *"Tax is what we must pay for a civilized society."*

Interestingly, Jesus faced the same issue when the Pharisees asked Him a loaded question - *'Is it right to pay tax to the Roman government or not?'* **Matthew 22:17 TLB**

* He outsmarted them with an answer that applies to this day - *"... render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's..."* **Matthew 22:21 KJV**

As a former tax agent, believe me, our tax system is like a dog's breakfast; but it was created by our duly-elected governments; and it supports us as a 1st world nation.

People spend a lot of time evading tax then justify their fraudulent behaviour claiming, *"the governments waste our money, so why give it to them; everyone does it; or...no one will know."*

My counsel for business owners:

Understand the tax system better and be prepared to pay up...

1. Take GST for example: it's a consumer tax, NOT a business tax; you simply collect it on behalf of the Tax Office and send it (minus GST credits of course)
2. And income tax: a sole trader earning \$100,000 pays 25% in tax whereas a husband/wife partnership would pay 15%; do you think this is unreasonable?
3. 9 times out of 10, it's not a tax problem you have, but a cash problem namely, the money needed to pay the tax is not available because it's been spent elsewhere, especially on lifestyle expenses!

THE BIBLE, our HANDBOOK, counsel for today: Romans 13:7 (TLB) ...

"...pay your taxes...gladly; obey those over you...give honor and respect...to whom it is due"

...If the Bible uses terms like gladly, obey, honour, respect, stop complaining, plan your cashflows wisely so you are able to pay your tax as and when it is due!

Other Scriptures:

Romans 13:7, NLT - *"Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority"*

1 Peter 2:13-14, NKJV - *"Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good"*

Romans 13:2, *"...whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves"*

Proverbs 3:27, *"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in the power of your hand to do so"*