

Our Handbook for Business, the Bible

Paying tax

Benjamin Franklin famously asserted, *"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"*

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**). His answer outwitted them & still applies, *"render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's"* (**Matthew 22:21 KJV**)

Remember, the Judeans come up against Rome, but we must deal with the tyranny of Mystery Babylon that controls the tax system, money, banks, governments, economies, finance, superannuation and the marketplace.

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

Evading tax is like a sport in Australia; evaders justify their fraud claiming, *"the government wastes our money, so why give it to them"* or *"everyone does it"* or *"no one will know"*, a foolish, risky and potentially costly attitude in an age of high-tech surveillance, data-matching & AI.

My counsel for business owners:

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

Take GST for example: it's a tax on consumers, NOT business; you collect it on behalf of the Tax Office, pay it on some expenses and remit the difference

Income tax: a sole trader earning \$100,000 pays 23% in tax whereas a husband/wife partnership on \$50k each would pay 13% (on \$200k it's 30% & 23% respectively); is this reasonable or not?

9 times out of 10, it's not a tax problem you have, but a cash problem namely, the money is not available because it's been spent or is tied up elsewhere, maybe due to high drawings, working capital mis-management; or an underperforming operation that's impacting profit & cashflow.

Finally, I draw your attention to a Herald Sun article on 7 June 2026, that you should read, *"The ATO is on the warpath for your money"* - a copy is available on the Handbook website.

THE BIBLE, our HANDBOOK counsel: Romans 13:7, The Living Bible...

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

Note: If the Bible commands us to pay up, obey, honour and respect, then stop complaining; plan your cashflows wisely so you're able to pay all taxes as and when they become due.

Other Scriptures (NKJV):

Romans 13:7, NLT - *"Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government..."*

1 Peter 2:13-14, NKJV - *"...submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake..."*

Romans 13:2, *"...whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God..."*

Titus 3:1, *"Remind them to be subject to...authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work"*

Romans 13:6, *"...because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers..."*