

# NED'S BLOGS ARCHIVES

(Updated February '06)

(Due to the webmeister's incompetence, a few blogs that appeared on the website in the summer of 2004 have disappeared down a black hole somewhere in remote cyber space. This is the best reconstruction of blogs that the same incompetent webmeister has been able to compile. Sincerely, Incompetent Webmeister.

## 1. NED'S BLOG #23, 12 FEBRUARY '06

### *MALUM IN SE, MALUM PROHIBITUM*

The wonderful Wikipedia website provides the following definitions:

*"Malum in se* (plural *mala in se*) is a Latin phrase meaning wrong in itself; it is an act that is illegal from the nature of the act, i.e. it is inherently evil without any fact of its being noticed or punished; such crimes as larceny, rape and murder are considered *malum in se*. This concept was used to develop the various common law crimes.

"This term is to be distinguished from *malum prohibitum* which simply means wrongs that are prohibited, i.e. not necessarily inherently immoral or hurtful, but only wrong by statute, such as parking violations, or smuggling, or selling products without a licence, or selling prohibited products."

It should be obvious to any reasonable mind that tax evasion or any other "crime" involving non-payment of taxes is *malum prohibitum*. There is nothing morally wrong with keeping one's own property. The only thing "wrong" with tax evasion is that a law has been written by a dictator or legislature making tax evasion a crime. Otherwise, it is as benign as brushing one's teeth or being too long at a parking meter. Tax evasion is, *malum prohibitum*, nothing more nor less.

Tax collecting, on the other hand, is obviously a case of *malum in se*. It is, as the above definition merely confirms, inherently evil. That is so because collecting any tax requires a tax collector taking another person's property by

force or coercion. It is a violation of God's law, "Thou shalt not steal!" It is in the same category as larceny, rape and murder. Here again it is only by an act of a dictator or legislature that the immoral act of taking property by force or coercion is turned into something "legal." Unfortunately for those who collect, receive or consume taxes, human laws cannot change an inherently evil act into something moral. Tax collecting is and will always be *malum in se*.

The common-law and such concepts of *malum in se* and *malum prohibitum* are indispensable tools for clearly understanding how far man-made laws have strayed from the path of righteousness. If you ask a dozen lawyers today for their view of the common law, nine out of ten will tell you that the common law has been abolished from criminal law, replaced by statutes and rules of courts. Most lawyers think and act pretty much the same today as they did two millennia ago when Jesus said of them, "Woe to you lawyers, you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."

Lawyers' declarations to the contrary notwithstanding, the common law is no more susceptible to abolition by legislative fiat than the Constitution. Of course if you try to unlock its wisdom through your government-licensed legal professional, you may be hindered.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, IT BEFUDDLES THEM!

## **NED'S BLOG #22 CHRISTMAS, 2005**

### **2. AN END TO WAR AND VIOLENCE**

Who at this time of Christmas doesn't long for world peace?

To me, it all seems so simple. If each of us declined to use force in the conduct of our human affairs, peace would reign, *ipso facto*. Peace by this means may have been the main point of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The problem is we don't get it, at least not yet.

One way we routinely use force to get what we want is by taxing others. Taxation requires the initiation of force to facilitate collection. A tax that wasn't subject to enforcement by the unholy authority of the State to initiate overwhelming force, including violent arrest and forcible property expropriation as necessary, would not be a tax. In the realm of taxation, the

first to use force or threaten its use is the State. Our victims always succumb to the might of the school-yard bully when we take their lunch money by means of taxation.

Because taxes have become ubiquitous in America and throughout the world, tax collection must constitute the most common occasion of force being used or threatened in people's lives and in the conduct of their affairs. Today we turn to taxation and its violence as casually as we scratch an itch. Although it is true that we tax ourselves when we tax others, that fact doesn't mitigate our use of force against others, at least not if Jesus meant what he said in his Sermon on the Mount. (See the Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 5, 6 and 7.)

If those individuals assigned the task of collecting taxes refused to use force and adhered to the wisdom of Jesus, taxation would cease. So the penultimate culprit in any taxation scheme is the tax collector. Perhaps that is why Jesus frequently pointed to tax collectors as exemplars of sinfulness. (See Matthew, Chapters 5, 9, 18, and 21)

In America, however, tax collectors are agents of the people, who are the principals, who hold the sovereign authority of the nation in their hands. Thus, the ultimate culprits in the persistence of ubiquitous violence in America are the people. As the cartoon character Pogo said, parodying Admiral Oliver Hazard Perry, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

It is incontrovertible that force and violence tend to beget more force and violence. When one person shoves another it is likely the other person will shove back. (Unless the person shoved is a disciple of Jesus, who told his disciples to turn the other cheek to the forces of violence.) There is also a dynamic nexus between taxes and wars, which is palpable. Wars are always funded by taxes, including the taxes of those who find war morally reprehensible.

On this crucial issue of taxation's endemic violence and its consequent immorality, those Americans who are dependent on the benefits obtained by taxing others endeavor to ignore the immoral implications, and even try to wrest the moral high ground from the victims of taxation. By means of intellectually bankrupt sophistry, they stand the law of God ("Thou shalt not steal.") and the teachings of Jesus on their respective heads.

As immoral as it is to take other people's property by means of force and violence, it is nevertheless legal in accordance with man-made laws.

Because of this contrived legality, tax collectors and tax beneficiaries are wont to denigrate and demonize those who would resist being taxed. Thus, by means of human laws, the victims of taxation who dare to resist, however peacefully and nonviolently, are made criminals, and the wisdom of Jesus is made nugatory.

On this Christmas two-thousand and five years after Jesus died, let us renew our baptismal vow to renounce Satan and all his work, including force and violence. We need not look to others to do so first or at the same time. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Merry Christmas to one and all!

NED'S BLOG #20, 1 October '05

THE AMERICAN LORD'S PRAYER  
(With apologies to Jesus)

Our Father  
Who art in Washington, DC  
Hallowed be thy name—Uncle Sam.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in America.

Give us this day our daily benefits and entitlements,  
And exterminate our enemies in Iraq  
As you did in Vietnam, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Tokyo and Dresden.

But lead us not into freedom,  
And deliver us from responsibilities,  
For thine is the tuition grant,  
And the housing voucher,  
And the flood insurance  
And Social Security,  
Now and forever  
Amen.

**GOVERNMENT DEPENDENTS**

Jesus, who knew something about God, had the following to say regarding Hurricane Katrina, FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security, federal flood insurance, and the several (i.e., federal, state and local) governments' respective responsibilities for disaster prevention and recovery. Of course Jesus did not speak explicitly on these topics, but certain universal principles for right living he enunciated do apply. The following pertinent words of Jesus are from his Sermon on the Mount, which is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, and from his warm and loving final instructions to his Apostles on the occasion of their Last Supper together, as recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

*“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?... Your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

*“When I sent you out without a purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “No, not a thing.”*

From the news media's coverage of the event, It appeared to me the victims of Hurricane Katrina, particularly in New Orleans, included mostly people who rely on government to provide them with many of their wants and needs, and to secure them from all perils. When Katrina struck, their god failed them..

Many Americans today rely on government for a plethora of goods and services, including such vital requirements as health care, education, transportation, housing, retirement benefits, their personal security and general welfare. This fact was starkly evident among the inhabitants of New Orleans who failed to evacuate the city. There was a time when the people of this nation relied on themselves and God for life's necessities, whereas now governments, particularly the federal government, have become their source. To put it mildly, the effect has been to emasculate those who may fairly be described as *“government dependents.”*

It is truly saddening in the aftermath of Katrina and the demonstrated incompetence of government as a provider that most Americans, and all of those who are *government dependents*, are still looking to government to provide government solutions to government's glaring shortcomings. It is as though, with half-eaten hen bodies strewn about the chicken coop and hen

feathers still protruding from the foxes' jaws, the foxes are invited to take charge of chicken-coop security. Of course the foxes delight in this arrangement, and salivate like politicians at a pork roast over their good fortune and future dining prospects.

The fact that the vast majority of Katrina's victims were black, and because only blacks appeared to engage in the shameless looting of every unprotected business in New Orleans, has opened the door for a lot of closet racists to venture out from their holes. I even read on the Internet a suggestion that a proclivity to loot is a genetic trait of the Negro race. Meanwhile, liberal architects of government social-welfare programs point the finger of blame at the poverty of blacks, insufficient federal funding of their pet programs, and the Bush tax cuts to explain and even justify the looting perpetrated by Katrina victims. Perhaps a right to loot when government entitlements fail to sufficiently provide should be embedded in the Constitution.

The victims of Katrina in New Orleans frequently demonstrated to television viewers around the world several remarkable characteristics including monumental stupidity, egregious immorality, slovenly hygiene, bovine torpor, and unimaginable ignorance. These are not the qualities of Negroes or poor people, they are the qualities of people--white, black or brown--who allow themselves to become utterly dependent upon others for their subsistence. When required to fend for themselves, without government to succor them, *government dependents* are about as resourceful as ill-tempered infants banging their spoons on their high-chair trays demanding to be fed.

What will it take to turn the people of this land away from government and back to God and their own God-given resources to fulfill their wants and needs? When the failure of government-owned levies surrounding land that would have few inhabitants were it not for government-subsidized flood insurance creates a human disaster of epic proportions, yet produces only cries for more government programs, I fear we are in precisely the same state as the brothers of the rich man in a story Jesus told.

*There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's*

*bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.-Lk 16*

## **NED'S BLOG #18, 2 SEPT. '05**

### **3. HIROSHIMA, NEW ORLEANS, SHOCK AND AWE**

How many Americans would intentionally inflict their neighbors with the horrifying conditions of daily life we witness today on our television screens that Hurricane Katrina has visited upon the hapless residents of New Orleans? If you are a United States citizen, I happen to know that you are just as ruthless as Katrina, for you have visited such conditions upon your neighbors in distant lands--often and without remorse. (To determine who one's neighbor is, see the story of the good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke, Ch. 10, vs. 25-37).

Several reporters who have viewed New Orleans from the air could only describe the indescribable scenes of devastation below them by comparison with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the United States dropped atomic bombs on them exactly fifty years to the month before Katrina hit New Orleans. Talk about divine retribution!

Unlike New Orleans, tens of thousands of *innocent* civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were instantly incinerated. Many more lingered on in incredible pain for weeks and months from heat and radiation burns and poisoning under mind-numbing living conditions that would make post-Katrina New Orleans seem like a Sunday picnic in the park.

Of course the people of those two cities are not the only ones who have experienced death, maiming, and the devastating aftermath of US bombs. Many more people were

killed and more of the living left to suffer longer under worse conditions than Katrina left behind when US bombers incinerated residential areas of Tokyo and the city of Dresden during World War II. Unlike Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, which concentrated on military personnel and resources, all of the attacks by American forces upon major foreign cities were aimed at civilian populations in order to achieve the maximum degree of terror. When it comes to inflicting terror, no one does it better than the good old US of A.

More recently, death and destruction at least equal to Katrina's wrath rained down on the citizens of Baghdad from American planes and cruise missiles, and we did it to the Iraqis twice!. Bush I and Bush II orchestrated the attacks on behalf of US citizens with the concurrence of Congress, and gave the events evocative titles such as "Shock and Awe." These high-cost displays of aerial fireworks and unseen deaths below were filmed by the military and news agencies to be broadcast on television for the nightly entertainment of US taxpayers. The taxpayers who footed the bill couldn't be there in person to enjoy the on-the-ground massacres. That would be dangerous, and besides, they were busy digesting take-out sushi from local Japanese restaurants in their suburban shopping malls.

I am filled with remorse for the poor people of New Orleans. For years they have relied on governments—local, state and federal—to provide their basic needs. When the troubles caused by Katrina overwhelmed all of those governments, these wretched souls did not know where to turn. Some turned to looting and violence, but most could only wait angrily or stoically for their fate to play out, hoping that the government would respond to their needs before it was too late. Many died waiting. Pitiful few found the resources within themselves to deal with their adversity. The nanny state is neither a reliable provider nor a fruitful god.

## **NED'S BLOG #17 (23 JUNE '05)**

### **4. SPREADING WET COW MANURE**

**Whenever I hear President Bush speak of spreading democracy to the Middle East the picture his metaphor invokes is one of my dairy farming neighbor's ancient manure spreader attached to the PTO of his tractor flinging wet cow manure mixed with straw in a wide arc behind him as he dragged that shit-filled, wagon-like device across his fertile fields. The way I see it, Arabs would be better served by America if we spread some of that wet cow manure instead of democracy upon the Arabs' arid lands.**

**At the present, the moral compass of individual Arabs is much closer to true north than that of US citizens. The higher morality of Arabs**

versus Americans is due to the fact that the blight of democracy has not yet corrupted the Arab populace as it has us. Spreading democracy in the Middle East will no doubt contaminate the Arab people and make them as murderous as we are. For as bad as those ayatollah-led Islamic regimes are for people forced to live under them, such as that of the Taliban gangster-clerics who once ruled Afghanistan, from the standpoint of how governments affect their citizens' morality, a democracy like ours is worse. Here's why.

Governments of the nation-states of the Arabian-speaking world are certainly corrupt. Ordinary people living there are ruled by dictators, monarchs or oligarches. The people have little or no say in the decisions of their rulers. Thus, they are relatively innocent of their governments' criminal behavior compared to Americans.

The people of the United States, on the other hand, hold the nation's sovereign authority in their own dirty hands. When politicians, bureaucrats, military and other government agents perform evil acts, we the people are ultimately responsible for those actions. It is a universally acknowledged legal and social axiom that a principal is responsible for the misfeasance of his or her agents perpetrated in the course of the agents' duties. In other words, for such crimes as the fire bombing of Dresden and Tokyo, which can only be described as mass murders of civilians for terrorist purposes, and for the ongoing slaughter of tens of thousands of helpless Iraqis, the people of the United States are personally guilty.

The world would be a better, safer place if "government of the people, by the people and for the people" had perished in America with the Civil War. The God-awful government that Lincoln praised has continuously engaged in warfare that pollutes the morality of the American people. Our layered system of elected representatives and multifarious government agents acting on our behalf facilitates the false belief that we can escape the inescapable consequences of the criminal acts of government because our own hands *appear* to be clean.

Under America's democratic system, and according to the way most Americans think, no one is responsible for the deaths of those anonymous souls whose shredded bodies are collectively buried

**beneath the all-time sorriest euphemism, "collateral damage." We treat collateral-damage victims as if they had committed suicide.**

**Unfortunately for us, God is not fooled by sophistry that seeks to obliterate our guilt for our principal role in such crimes by proxies. We have as little chance of escaping God's judgment for the sins of our agents as Adam and Eve had of hiding from God among the trees of the Garden after eating the forbidden fruit.**

**At the inception of his ministry Jesus was tempted by the devil. The incident is reported in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. As Luke tells the story, "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished...Then the devil led him up (a high mountain) and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please." (Luke, Chapter 4, verse 6)**

**Jesus did not dispute the devil's remarkable assertion that those who wield the power of every kingdom on earth have their authority from Satan. This astonishing claim rings true, however, when it is recognized that every nation-state has agents (tax collectors) who engage in plunder under the rubric of taxation in open violation of God's commandment, Thou shalt not steal. Furthermore, every nation-state has agents trained to kill (military personnel, covert agents, hangmen and others), and every state professes the unholy authority, which could only come from Satan, to wage war. In the prosecution of its wars, the state remorselessly slaughters its enemies and innocents alike by the thousands and by the millions. The dead enemies are the very people Jesus told us we must love. Every single war death violates God's command, Thou shalt not kill.**

**Individuals acting on their own dare not perpetrate the crimes that the agents of nation-states routinely commit with impunity. Without government authorization, they would be arrested, tried and convicted of theft and murder. Only by practicing a form of idolatry known as "statolatry," which violates God's First Commandment, can acts that are forbidden to individuals become "lawful" because they are**

committed by government agents.

All nation-states institutionalize violations of God's commandments not to steal or kill. Their leaders and most of their citizens, drugged by the opiate-like influence of patriotism, worship at the altar of statolatry. They firmly believe that by some miraculous power of government, men can do what is otherwise impossible or prohibited by God's law. Thus, Luke's startling representation that the authority of all the kingdoms on earth comes from Satan is not far fetched at all. Thomas Jefferson was justifiably concerned for the morality of the nation he helped create when he wrote in his *Notes on Virginia* in 1784, "Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just."

**NED'S BLOG #16 (13 June '05)**

#### **5. BULLETS, BOMBS AND TAUREAN EXCREMENT**

If Satan were to devise a scheme to keep men in a state of everlasting warfare, he couldn't do much better than to instigate a war against a human failing that can never be eradicated short of eradicating humankind itself. Such is the War on Terror.

Terrorism is a human failing that has been around at least since the Jews and Egyptians squared off. Moses and Pharaoh both resorted to terrorist acts in pursuit of their political objectives. Indeed, Moses may be the all-time top terrorist for inflicting eleven acts of holy terror upon all Egyptian men, women and children indiscriminately, whether guilty or innocent, in order to coerce one man, Pharaoh, into doing Moses' bidding.

Terrorism is sort of like poverty and the use of intoxicating drugs. All three may fairly be described as human failings. No one with half a brain truly expects that poverty, drugs or terror will ever be eliminated by war-like government actions. One reason: It isn't in the interest of those who champion wars against human frailties to achieve victory. The singular fact of all such wars is that their vocal advocates are those who stand to profit most. And those profits allow them to lobby effectively for the continuation of their favorite wars *ad infinitum*.

A common denominator among America's War on Poverty, launched in the 1965 by Lyndon Johnson, its War on Drugs, launched by Ronald

Reagan in 1982, and the War on Terror, launched by George Bush in 2001, is that they all are designed and destined to go on forever against indefatigable targets. One big difference is that the first two are essentially cold wars fought primarily with taurean excrement, whereas the latter is a hot war being fought with live bombs and real bullets. Of sure, the Drug War has produced its share of bodies, but at least most of its victims have merely gone to jail. The victims of America's War on Terror, primarily innocent bystanders rather than enemy combatants, are mainly dead or dismembered. Satan must be proud of us.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not saying that Bush is a disciple of Satan just because he launched the everlasting War on Terror. Although I do give the Devil his due as having a hand in those affairs of the heartless that we call war, it was not Satan who persuaded George Bush to go to war. The force behind Bush's war also compels him in other matters. As that rodent Pogo said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us!"

The force majeure driving Bush at all times is the sovereign authority of the United States--its people. If Americans hadn't tacitly or explicitly endorsed Bush's war, George wouldn't have gone there. Like Clinton before him, Bush is a follower, not a leader. As a matter of fact, no president has ever led the United States into a war that the majority of citizens did not want. People may have been fooled by their politicians into entering the Devil's domain, but they have always gone willingly if rather unwittingly.

So the Devil's own agents are you and I. It wasn't Osama bin Laden who initiated terror. America's aggressive, deadly, militaristic foreign policy has been visiting terror upon people in the Middle East for decades during the terms of many presidents. Men like Osama bin Laden, Abu Musab, Al-Zarqawi, and their ilk, are entirely predictable, reflexive responses to long-standing American policies, which obviously meet with the approval of the sovereign people, for otherwise they would have expired.

Unfortunately, most victims of America's War on Terror are true innocents with have no control over their nations' policies and atrocities. On the other hand, those victims in the World Trade Center who were US citizens were all members of the sovereign body politic,

**and thus culpable for crimes that their government agents perpetrated, which invoked Osama and provoked al Qua'ida into committing the horror-filled calamity we call Nine Eleven**

**The fact that Americans have had to sacrifice so much of their liberty to fight the War on Terror is fitting atonement for a decades-long militaristic foreign policy. Given Osama bin Laden's proclaimed objective of depriving Americans of their freedom, there can be no question that he is already the clear victor over the United States. But it really doesn't matter much that Americans are rapidly losing their freedom, as bin Laden predicted they would. Most of us don't place much value on it any more anyway. The important questions for us are, "Who is going to be the next *Survivor*, the next *Apprentice*, and the next *American Idol*?"**

**As for the next president, I have great confidence that my fellow sovereign citizens will do the right thing. Therefore, I predict that, first, the Supreme Court will repeal the constitutional provision barring foreign-born citizens from holding that office. Then, Democrat Jerry Springer will upset Republican candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger. God bless America! No Irish need apply!**

## **NED'S BLOG #15 (1 JUNE '05)**

### **6. HEALTHCARE INSURANCE VERSUS TRUST IN GOD**

I heard PBS Radio news-commentator Daniel Schorr on Memorial Day bemoaning the fact that nothing had been done by the president or members of congress to establish a national healthcare policy since President Clinton's proposed "Hillary Care" died aborning over a decade ago. Schorr made two ominous assertions in the course of his commentary. He stated that 18,000 citizens were dying every year for want of healthcare insurance and consequent lack of medical care. He also maintained that those citizens who did have insurance pay higher premiums to cover the expense of treating the uninsured. (I presume that this assertion is predicated upon the fact that hospital costs are higher for paying customers when some patients who don't have health insurance fail to pay their bills.)

Schorr's commentary on our national healthcare quagmire and the resultant deaths was clearly meant to sound foreboding. It certainly was to me, although for reasons I suspect Daniel Schorr never imagined. I found

Schorr's comments foreboding because of what was implied. If people can be persuaded that thousands are dying for want of a national policy, universal health insurance is likely to become law. Americans are already hopelessly dependent upon the state for many of life's other necessities, so why not insurance? And if the uninsured increase the cost of everyone else's healthcare insurance, it would be both economical and pragmatic that a national insurance scheme be mandatory for everyone in order to spread the cost over the greatest number. The minimal loss of freedom inherent in higher taxes and mandated participation would sound like a fair trade off to most US citizens. For me, however, mandatory federal health insurance would only provide another law to violate and perhaps another opportunity for some R&R in jail.

You see, I would sooner die or go to jail than see a doctor or check into a hospital on somebody else's extorted nickel. No matter how the law may obscure the truth, federal healthcare insurance is stealing, and God decreed, "Thou shalt not steal!" No human law, no sharply honed sophistry can repeal God's law and make it legitimate for government revenue agents to extort the fruits of others' labors in order to pay my medical bills.

Furthermore, the insurance principle itself violates my spiritual beliefs and my guiding principles. For I am a disciple of Jesus, by which I mean a student of his teaching and a (faltering) follower of his way of life. In his great Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all of these things (i.e., all of life's necessities) will be given to you as well."--Matthew, chapter 6, verse 33. The way I see it, I can take Jesus' assurance that God will provide me with all that I need today, including whatever physical strength and health I may need for my circumstances that day, or I can contract with someone else (viz., some person, business or government) for my welfare, but I cannot have both.

So I have signed up with God for my healthcare insurance, and for all of the other necessities of life that are routinely provided "free of charge" by socialist states. (The hidden cost of government dependency is always a loss of some freedom, and sometimes even the loss of one's soul.) For the past twenty-three years my insurer has waived all premiums, the only requirements being that I stay close to Him and depend on Him--not the state. Rather than surrendering some of my freedom, my Insurer provides me with freedom from worry about my health, a dividend of immeasurable

value. In the very next verse of his Sermon on the Mount after the one quoted above, Jesus said, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." Mt 6:34. I have taken that advise to heart and it has worked wonders in my life.

## **LOVE THINE ENEMIES—IT BEFUDDLES THEM!**

### **NED'S BLOG #14 (24 MAY '05)**

#### **7. VIDELICET**

##### **Euphemisms versus truths.**

**"I oppose the war, but I support the troops." Viz., "I support the war."**

**"There will always be some collateral damage." Viz., "It is okay with me if America engages in terrorism abroad."**

**"It is not my war. I voted for Kerry." Viz., "I support the war."**

**"I am unequivocally opposed to war, but I have no choice but to pay my taxes". Viz., I support the war."**

**"I would never kill anyone." Viz., "I support the war. My tax dollars pay others to kill for me."**

**"I withhold half of what I owe in taxes to protest the war." Viz., "I support the war half heartedly."**

**"I am a patriotic American. I pay my taxes" Viz., "I'm afraid of the IRS, but I don't mind killing foreigners on foreign soil."**

**"I support the war on terror." Viz., "I never used my civil rights anyway."**

**"America must achieve energy independence." Viz., "Hitler was right after all." (Note: His armies invaded Poland for its coal fields to ensure German energy independence.)**

**"I support homeland security." Viz., "I favor a police state."**

**"I'm not opposed to immigration, only to illegal aliens who break our laws." Viz., "America for Americans who arrived here after my ancestors subdued the savage natives."**

**"I favor a system of national identification to thwart terrorists." Viz., "I**

**support a system of internal passports like the Nazis, Soviets and South African once had."**

**"Give me liberty or give me death." Viz., "Give me government-subsidized prescription drugs or I'll vote you out of office."**

**"Keep Social Security secure." Viz., "Fix SS after I get mine."**

**Any analysis of American patriotism is certain to prove that Samuel Johnson was right, and that Thomas Jefferson had good cause to tremble.**

**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, IT BEFUDDLES THEM!**

**NED'S BLOG #13 (11 MARCH 05)**

### **SUPPORT THE WAR: PAY YOUR TAXES**

Among the most hypocritical statements being uttered repeatedly by millions of well-intentioned-but-toxic Americans these days are those insipid expressions of opposition to the Iraq War by so-called anti-war protesters. Whatever words they adopt to express their opposition to the war, as long as they pay all or part of their federal income tax liability they are in fact supporting the war as surely as any front-line general ordering his troops into battle. Truth is the first casualty in every war, and taxes are the first ingredient in every recipe for war. Like that song about love and marriage, you can't have war without taxes.

Let us get something straight: The federal personal income tax is voluntary! Not only has the IRS been telling you that for decades, but the truth of the matter clearly is that the government cannot make anyone pay the tax. If you refuse to file an income-tax return, which is the act that makes you liable for the tax, the government will create a tax form showing that you owe much more money than you would have owed if you had dutifully filed and paid voluntarily like a good citizen-soldier. It will then forcibly take that inflated sum plus as much as half again in "interest and penalties" from any bank or investment account you have, or it will attach and sell any assets you own that it can locate, and it may even send you to jail for "willful failure to file" a tax return. However, your conscience will be clear and you will be

guilt free.

Unless and until you are willing to go to any length to end your financial support of war, including adamant tax resistance with all of its negative consequences, please don't call yourself a pacifist or an opponent of war, because you really are not. As long as you're paying your "fair share," of the federal income tax, you are right up there with the CEO of Haliburton as one of the war's critical supporters. From the standpoint of morality, you are as guilty of the crime of making war as any volunteer soldier. Without your support, he or she would perforce be home engaged in productive—not destructive—labor.

If perhaps only ten to twenty percent of those Americans who vocally oppose the war were to resist the taxes they currently pay in support of the war, there are not enough IRS agents to take their money by distraint, and there are not enough jail cells to contain them. America's war mongers would have no choice but to declare victory or defeat and quickly withdraw US forces from Iraq.

A word to those misguided citizens who file tax returns and then withhold a portion of the money they owe, which they calculate to be their share of the cost of war. Fogetabowtit. The government takes the portion you do pay and uses it to finance the war, and then it takes the rest of what you owe plus interest and penalties out of your bank and buys more bombs with it. Your insipid gesture—and that is what it is—merely prolongs the war.

As for you war mongers who think you can require others to pay for your bloodthirsty battles, read my essay, JESUS OF NAZARETH, ILLEGAL-TAX PROTESTER, and think again. You may believe you are doing right by patriotically supporting your nation's wars, but in accordance with the principles espoused by Jesus Christ, you are not. You are terribly, terribly wrong. You are guilty of violating God's commandment, Thou shalt not kill!

## **NED'S BLOG #12 (20 Feb. '05)**

### **MEDICARE WILL MAKE YOU SICK?**

There are good reasons why Americans should avoid participating in Medicare like the plague. (See, the "I'm Spartacus" page on this website for

some comments on Social Security that apply with equal force to Medicare.) The most pragmatic and utilitarian reason is to preserve one's physical, mental, emotional and moral well being. There is no doubt in my mind that those who participate in Medicare are going to need it. The radical thesis of this blog is that enrollment in Medicare precipitates the ailments that the program is designed to treat. The advertising jingo for such a debilitating health-care program ought to be: "GET MEDICARE AND GET SICK!"

Good evidence on a macro scale of Medicare's facility to create its own pandemic is demonstrated by the new prescription-drug benefit, which was approved by Congress and added to Medicare in December of 2003. At the time of its adoption a little over a year ago, the ten-year cost of the program was estimated at \$400 billion. Recently the Bush administration revised the estimated cost to \$1,19 trillion over the next decade, but with certain anticipated savings, it contended, the cost could be held to \$719 billion! Held??? This rocket-propelled increase implies that the availability of the benefit has dramatically increased the need and demand for prescription drugs. It implies that the nation's elderly are getting sicker quicker thanks to their new prescription-drug benefit.

Those who are familiar with the wit and wisdom of Jesus of Nazareth will have no trouble understanding this remarkable phenomenon and the underlying axiom that government-sponsored health-care programs make people sick. In his great Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "With what measure you mete, it shall be measured unto you." In the Hindu religion, the phenomenon is called karma. In street parlance we say, "What goes around comes around." If you're going to stick the next generation with the cost of your health-care insurance benefits, it is only just and proper that you should get stuck with the diseases that the benefits are designed to treat as a very minimum of divine evenhandedness.

Hard evidence has confirmed the reality of this karmic phenomenon to my satisfaction. I am sixty-seven years old, so most of my long-time friends, relatives and acquaintances are a few years past the age when one becomes eligible for Medicare. I have watched with bemusement as one after another signed up for Medicare and soon experienced a deterioration in their health to the point where they "needed" their Medicare benefits. The minuscule few who did not subscribe to Medicare, myself included, have retained their health and vigor as though they were years younger than their medicared-for counterparts. Perhaps some of the latter group are

sickening, and in extreme cases dying, from bad side effects of all those prescription medication they've been taking on the dole.

While I acknowledge that my evidence is anecdotal, these personal observations combined with the wisdom of folks like Jesus and Gandhi suffice to keep me from sampling Medicare on someone else's nickel. The way I look at it, my life is too full and my health is too good to trade risk on Medicare. So, if you're over sixty-five and want to improve your health, opting out of Medicare may be your best prescription. Just be sure to mix a gram or two of faith in God's great healing power into your Rx.

## **NED'S BLOG #10**

### **WHO'S A TAX COLLECTOR?**

A U.S. congressman once observed that the tax policy that most of his constituents preferred was best expressed in a little ditty: "Don't tax you, don't tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree." Nobody wants to be taxed, which is why taxes must be enforced, which is to say, collected by force or coercion. This reliance on force is why Jesus condemned taxes. It is also the reason why tax collectors throughout history have been universally abhorred. Nobody likes to be coerced. Like all victims, those who are forced to pay taxes are prone to detest their persecutors. For this reason IRS agents never reveal their true occupation to acquaintances or neighbors.

The essay published here, JESUS OF NAZARETH, ILLEGAL-TAX PROTESTER, proves conclusively that Jesus regarded tax collectors as notorious sinners. Once, in deflating the overblown, self-righteous chief priests and elders who were his arch enemies, Jesus likened them to the most disreputable of all sinners, saying to them, "Truly I tell you, even tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you." (Matthew 21:31)

So who are the sinners collecting taxes in America today? Of course IRS agents come immediately to mind, for they clearly are the most vicious and despised. Retail merchants, however, their clerks, and retail-service

providers collect sales taxes on virtually everything they sell and we buy and thus are the most ubiquitous of the tax collectors. They are not so much vicious as stupid, for they generally perform their onerous task without thinking or compensation. Then there are the county treasurers and clerks who collect property taxes on our homes, and stand ready to take the homes of those who fail to pay up.

Of course all tax collectors are merely agents. Generally speaking, they do not keep the proceeds from their nefarious occupation. The tax revenue they collect ends up in the pockets of their principals. Thus, the worst of all the participants in the taxation pandemic are the principals. They may not personally engage in the coercion and violence, but it is instigated on their behalf and for their benefit. They are, in every odious sense of the pejorative, the ultimate tax collectors.

When Jesus walked the lands of Galilee and Judea there was a sharp distinction between those who paid taxes and those who consumed the revenues. Taxpayers received little or nothing in the way of benefits in return for what they were forced to pay. Revenues went to the ruling classes and their minions. Some of the revenues were utilized to feed the armies that kept the masses in subjugation, and of course some were used to compensate the tax collectors, who often worked hand in hand with the military to ensure collection. Rome's tax on the subjugated Jews was simply a more efficient and productive method of expropriating the fruits of the Jews' labors as opposed to binding them in chains, feeding them, boarding them, and forcing them to work as slaves at the point of a spear.

Things are different in America today. Taxpayers themselves are the primary beneficiaries of taxation, the true principals, although the value of their benefits as a whole is always considerably less than the value of the taxes they pay as a group, because some of the proceeds must be spent extracting payment from those elusive taxpayers who try to hide behind a tree. And some must be paid to the pols and bureaucrats who decide how to distribute the loot among the beneficiaries--after reserving extraordinary benefits for themselves.

Now you might think that the tax situation in America today, wherein the

taxpayers receive some benefits from what they are forced to pay, is a better arrangement for American taxpayers than taxes were for the Jews under Roman rule, but Jesus wouldn't think so. Look at it his way: If someone steals your money, you are out that much money. But if you steal someone else's money because someone stole yours, YOU ARE A THIEF! Jesus did not countenance stealing, and the most sophisticated sophist whoever lived could not persuade Jesus that taxation was anything but theft by proxy. Thanks to the proliferation of taxes, employment taxes, including income, social security and medicare, the ubiquitous sales tax, and the everywhere-present property tax, combined with the multitude of beneficiaries these high-yield taxes succor, it can be truly said of Americans today that we are all tax collectors. We are all one big pack of greedy tax thieves!

Now a tax collector is obviously a sinner, but a spineless taxpayer who *voluntarily* surrenders the fruits of his or her labor to the tax man is no disciple of Jesus, whose principles proscribe *paying* taxes as well as collecting them. The American taxpayer in this day and age is twice defiled by taxation. He sins by partaking in the loot from taxes, and she sins by voluntarily paying taxes. As I read in copy of *The Freeman* magazine years ago, Americans can be likened to a circle of pickpockets, each with his hand surreptitiously filching the contents of his neighbor's pocket on his right, while the hand of his neighbor on his left sneaks into his own pocket. Anyone who thinks that Jesus would approve of a system that corrupts an entire nation of people doesn't know Jesus the Nazarene.

Oh yeah, and if any of you taxpayer-tax-collectors are feeling smug about how much money your federal government has pledged in aid of the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami, I suggest you read Mr. Sheldon Richman's article in *The Philadelphia Daily News*, or read it on the web at <http://www.fff.org/comment/com0501b.asp>

## **NEDS BLOG #9**

### **KILLER TAXPAYERS**

You say your against the war in Iraq, that you are a committed dove, a peace maker, a non-violent person, a disciple of Jesus? Hmmm. I wonder?

If you are a citizen of the United States, somewhere in Iraq today it is virtually certain that one or more of your agents (soldiers, marines, CIA operatives or Haliburton contract mercenaries) have killed several innocent Iraqis in this war of naked aggression. Under the American system of government, it is unquestionable that the ultimate, sovereign authority of the nation resides in the people, the citizens of the United States—you, if you are one. Don't blame George Bush or members of Congress. They are your agents doing what you have authorized them to do. Don't blame the soldiers who in the heat of combat shoot unarmed children. They are acting on your behalf, performing their duty for you. You sent them there. You are their principal; they are your agents. It is an unimpeachable legal axiom that a principal is responsible for the actions of his or her agents in the course of the agents' duties. In America, you are the principal. You're the one who is responsible. You are culpable. You are guilty!

If you are a citizen, you're guilty. If you are a citizen taxpayer, you're guilty twice over. There is an old adage among investigators who look into nefarious acts. It says, "Follow the money!" If you pay federal taxes, more specifically, if you voluntarily pay the federal income tax, your tax dollars pay your president's salary, your soldiers' wages, and your invoices from those highly profitable companies that make the bullets and bombs that your agents use to blow innocent men, women and children into unrecognizable body bits, parts and pieces. If you pay taxes, your taxes finance the slaughter. You are guilty!

Don't whine that you have no choice. Let me assure you of this: the federal income tax is a voluntary tax. You do have a choice. You don't have to pay it. If you do pay it, it is only because you choose to do so. I personally haven't paid any federal income tax since 1971, and I never will pay it again. I won't pay people to kill for me. If you are paying it, it follows as night follows day that you support the war in Iraq and the slaughter taking place there on your behalf. If you are a federal-income taxpayer, at least be honest enough to own up to your crucial role in the nefarious bloodletting that is the war in Iraq.

You say the federal income tax is mandatory? The Internal Revenue Service has been saying for years that it is voluntary. Who are you to argue?

Of course if you file an income tax return in which you confess to owing a tax, you had better pay it. Just remember, you filed voluntarily. You say that your minister even tells you to pay your taxes? Don't be misled, read my essay, JESUS OF NAZARETH, ILLEGAL TAXPAYER. Jesus would not pay taxes to finance professional killers.

Each year a few Americans are prosecuted by the feds for not volunteering, even though they are not required by law to do so. This year one of their victims is Irwin Schiff, the author of a book that the federal government is trying to ban. The one and only reason Schiff is being prosecuted is because he had the temerity to broadcast the truth about the fraudulent means the Internal Revenue Service uses to enforce the income tax. Mr. Schiff isn't being prosecuted for evading or resisting the tax. He is being persecuted for telling millions of people the truth about the tax and the federal mafia...er, IRS. If you would learn more about this issue, visit Irwin Schiff's website, <http://www.paynoincometax.com/>

In George Orwell's classic tale of oppression by an omnipotent State, citizens were taught that "war is peace." In America today the IRS instructs citizen taxpayers that "voluntary compliance is mandatory." And just like the brain-washed subjects of the omnipotent state in Orwell's novel, *1984*, Americans believe Big Brother's propaganda. Does anyone else hear sheep bleating?

#### **BLOG #8** 20 November '04

I have added a Preface to my essay, JESUS OF NAZARETH, ILLEGAL-TAX PROTESTER, which clearly describes and delineates the essay's three hypotheses, and explains the hermeneutics employed in creating it. To facilitate downloading the Preface is also available here as this week's blog. (Note: Since the Preface is included in the copy now available on the "download Jesus" page, it has been omitted from the archives.)

#### **BLOG #7**, 8 November '04

## THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT!

When I wrote JESUS OF NAZARETH, ILLEGAL-TAX PROTESTER, I knew the book would be controversial, just as Jesus was and is. I have been anxious to receive feedback and criticism, because I intend to change it if anyone points out errors or offers suggestions that will improve it. Since critics have been slow to respond, I decided to go out looking. I wanted to subject my work to the keenest analysis and sternest criticism, so I went to the website of an organization called "Quatloos." I entered their cyber forum entitled, "Tax Protesters, Pure Trusts, and Other Stupid De-Tax Schemes & Scams," and invited all Quatloosians to visit my website, read my essay and give me their harshest criticism. Many of them responded, and I am grateful.

I assume that Quatloos membership is comprised of professional tax preparers, tax lawyers, law judges, accountants, IRS press and revenue agents, financial planners and brokers, tax-shelter salesmen, and other folks who have a vested financial interest in preserving the myriad federal income-tax laws, which require taxpayers to spend many hundreds of millions of dollars on record keeping, tax strategy, planning, preparation, filing, compliance, legal defense and other related tax services. It is a mammoth industry that produces nothing of value. Only war itself is more debilitating of America's productivity. (Note: After writing this, several Quatloosians professed not to fit this description of their membership and gained no financial advantage from the income tax laws. I do not want to be unfair. Examine the Quat's website--all of it--and decide for yourself, as I did, who might belong to such a group. Go to: [www.quatloos.com](http://www.quatloos.com). Be sure to look at the members' profiles and make your own judgment.)

The Quatloos group came into being in response to a burgeoning tax-protest movement that Quatloosians rightfully perceived to be a serious threat to their lucrative tax practices, which are built upon the federal income-tax law's complexity, the methods of its enforcement, and its many booby traps. When you visit the Quatloos website, find the "Tax Protest Forum" and follow the "paying taxes..." string by "Ned Netterville." There you will see the hornets' nest my essay has stirred up.

Quatloosians refer to those who resist paying the income tax as TPs (tax

protesters) and tax deniers. I refer to the same people as I-TPs, which stands for illegal-tax protesters, because the federal income tax is what I-TPs protest, and while the tax itself may not be illegal, the methods by which the federal government enforces it certainly are. If I was forced to pay it, I would protest too.

Quats always speak of I-TPs from a place of moral superiority with the utmost contempt. The following is a sampling of what Quatloosians had to say about me when I entered their forum and cordially invited them to visit this website and read my essay. With perhaps one or possibly two exceptions, they obviously made their judgments about my essay, my motives for writing it, and my moral character without troubling to even read it. Here's some of what they had to say about me:

"Using Jesus and Bible to validate an idolatrous crusade against paying taxes is heretical and a very ugly fruit on their tree if you ask me...Sounds like the author of this little ditty would rather serve and preserve his money than his faith in Jesus, if he even has any."

"When you value the dollar more than anything else, you are in trouble. That's what most TPs are all about. How can I keep as much of my money as possible? How can I distort this court case, or passage in the bible to substantiate my position. It's ridiculous."

"If you look, this kook also falls for the slavery/reparations scam." (Huh? Does anyone know what this gentleman is talking about?)  
"The extent to which TPs are willing to pervert the words of Jesus Christ so that religion appears to back their position never fails to amaze me."

"I've read it. It's a religious tract objecting to taxation. That issue has been settled by the Supreme Court in U.S. v. Lee, and not in your favor. Other than that, what is there to say?"

"TPs who use the Bible to validate their lies and manipulate people into violating the law do not have a Biblical view of Yahweh, it is simply a tool for personal gain or power or both...We all paid for your

incarcerations that you mention, that makes me feel like you're just a taker in society...I do not consider myself being robbed because I am receiving goods and services for my money and YOU are receiving goods and services for my money too."

"I have neither the time nor the inclination to read 170 pages of tax protester propaganda...Thanks for saving me the trouble of reading something that was probably just going to give me a headache... Frankly, I think (Ned's) a lunatic...Yes, you can quote me on that."

"Jesus would probably not be concerned with amassing as much money or other worldly possessions as possible. Satan would, however, so I can see the true inspiration for your book."

"You really are making this up, and if you have ever read your Bible, you know that you are lying through your teeth (assuming you have any)...In other words, your arguments are false and you are guilty of the rather serious sin of spreading a false doctrine."

"Pontius Pilate was a military governor, not a tax official. His duties included (and if you don't know what `includes' means ask the nearest 6th grader)..."

As you can see, in the eyes of Quatloosians, I am a toothless liar, a kook, and a heretic with a fifth-grader's intelligence who is inspired by Satan, and not one of them has ever met me. By attacking me and my motives rather than my essay, these Quats strengthen my conviction in the veracity of my thesis, and they illuminate the wisdom of a Jesus principle, which I paraphrased to create my own personal motto: "Love thine enemies, it befuddles them!" I needn't defend my motives, my essay, my inspiration (Jesus), or my character from the Quats' mean-spirited charges, but I do want to defend my I-TP friends from the charge that they are greedy, selfish people who don't pay their taxes and sponge off those who do.

In the past thirty-five years, I have met a lot of I-TPs. With few exceptions, the ones I have met clearly were not doing well financially. Because they refused to voluntarily pay the income tax, many lost good jobs, homes and

cars to IRS revenue agents. Some were put in jail where they earned nothing. Most scrape by in the underground economy.

As a former member of the New York Stock Exchange, I have also known many tax lawyers, accountants, tax preparers, financial planners, etc. With few exceptions, these people rake in extremely generous emoluments as a direct result of those complex income-tax laws, which the Quats defend. My own informed guesstimate is that Quats on average steal (re: because taxation is theft) exponentially more each year (after taxes) defending their precious tax code and preying on its victims than I-TPs earn on average.

Are there I-TPs who are deluded or just plain rogues? There certainly are, and we may have something to say about them in a future NED'S BLOG.

Are there thieves, liars and honest-but-deluded tax lawyers and their ilk? I don't judge them, but Jesus said, "Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! For ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne (like taxes, preparation and legal fees), and ye yourself touch not the burden with one of your fingers...Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge (with obscurant tax laws requiring licensed lawyers to interpret); ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering ye hindered (with court rules and legal bars against practicing law without a license)." (Luke 11:45-52, KJV) Keep the faith....Ned

P.S. Thanks to Irwin Schiff for linking his site: [www.paynoincometax.com](http://www.paynoincometax.com).

NEXT ON NED'S BLOG: WE ASK: WHO DETESTS NED MORE, QUATS OR FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIANS? ALSO, NED ANSWERS THE QUESTION, WHY HAVE QUATS AND FUNDAMENTALIST JOINED FORCES TO DAMN NED TO HELL FOR ALL ETERNITY?

**BLOG#6** 27 October '04

**HANG SCHIFF!—CRUCIFY JESUS!**

In the spring of this year, a federal district judge in Nevada ordered the

notorious illegal-tax protester Irwin Schiff to stop selling his book, *The Federal Mafia, How it Illegally Imposes and Unlawfully Collects Income Taxes*, and further ordered him to stop conducting seminars or speaking out in other public forums against the federal income tax. (For more about Schiff visit: <http://www.paynoincometax.com/>) (Note: the term, "illegal tax protester," without the hyphen, was long used by the IRS on its records and in its utterances to designate and denigrate opponents of the income tax. I insert a hyphen to illuminate the truth, to wit: The protested tax is itself "illegal," in the sense that the IRS can only collect it by means that violate several provisions of the Bill of Rights.)

Because Mr. Schiff publishes the book through his own publishing house, Freedom Books, the judge's order is equivalent to a publishing ban. By an amazing coincidence, the name of the judge who issued the order, Judge George, III, is the same as the most famous tyrant in American history: King George, III, of England, whose oppression of the colonist provoked The Declaration of Independence. (Note: I have taken the liberty of adding the "III" to his name to tell the world that Judge George is a petty tyrant too—very petty, I might add.)

Several organizations that routinely defend free speech (ACLU, librarians, and writers groups) sprang to Schiff's defense with *amicus curiae* briefs when he appealed George III's draconian order to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Given the language of the First Amendment, "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...", a reversal of George III's order looked like a slam dunk for Schiff. Assuming that it would lose in the appellate court, the IRS initiated its backup plan to silence Schiff, indicting him on a plethora of bogus criminal charges. Subsequently, to the erotic delight of the Justice Department and the IRS, and to the utter consternation of anyone concerned with freedom and the implications of its astonishing decision, the Ninth Circuit upheld George III's outrageous order!

In the thirty years leading up to these events, the federal government spent many millions of dollars trying unsuccessfully to silence Irwin Schiff's unrelenting verbal assault on the legality of the income tax. A catalogue of everything the IRS has done to shut Schiff up would make the Justice

Department's biggest vendetta against the biggest Don of the other Mafia look like tiddlywinks. Of course when you're talking about the income tax you're talking real money, the kind of money needed to pay the munificent salaries and longer-than-life benefits of federal judges, which explains why Schiff keeps losing cases in the federal courts. In Las Vegas, where Schiff lives, they would call George, III's court a stacked deck.

My question then is this: If the IRS will go to any lengths to silence an obscure American author telling people in a relatively small-circulation book that they don't have to pay the federal income tax, what will the government do when it discovers that the most widely disseminated book in America advises folks not to pay any kind of tax whatsoever? And the author of that advice is exponentially better known and even more respected than Irwin Schiff. No, I am not talking about my best-selling-price book, which is available on this website. The book I refer to is the Bible. The renowned author of the advice not to pay taxes is that remarkable man from Galilee, the carpenter called Jesus! If you are interested in the only comprehensive analysis of where Jesus stood on the question of paying taxes, and why, you can start by reading my book, *Jesus of Nazareth, Illegal-Tax Protester*. If you want the whole story, you'll have to read the Bible. So my question really is: Will the IRS seek to ban the Bible and get an injunction to shut Jesus up? Keep the faith..... Ned

**BLOG#5** (October '04)

### **REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY**

If you're a voluntaryist (viz., pacifist-anarchist) like Jesus and me, or a libertarian, you ought to consider getting behind the reparations-for-slavery movement, which would have the United States government compensate the descendants of America's black slaves for the damages suffered by the victims of slavery. Although the impetus for reparations up to now has come primarily from blacks and liberals, many of who are predominantly statist in their world view, those who seek the demise or diminution of the state should be at the forefront of the reparations movement.

Of course no sum of money no matter how large could even begin to repay the real and punitive damages that true justice would bequeath upon the victims' of slavery, but one-hundred trillion dollars to their descendants is an easy number to remember and would be a good place to start the political wrangling. Ned, \$100,000,000,000,000.00, you say! Are you crazy? Yes, indeed, I said that, and yes, I am crazy, like a rabid fox.

It is impossible for me to conjure the unspeakable horrors that the victims of slavery suffered. It is beyond my perceptive powers and limited vocabulary to describe what it must have been like for an individual human being, a man just like my son Sean or my daughter Bridget, to be enslaved. And then I must multiply the unfathomable suffering of one individual by twelve-million souls, and have those blood and flesh people who were just like my own children and grandchildren endure their slavery for fifteen to twenty generations, for three-hundred years!. To acquire a little insight into the history of American slavery, do a Google search of "America and slavery."

Yes, of course, a one-hundred-trillion-dollar program of reparations for slavery would be an administrative nightmare, but no excuse for deferring it. A government that doles out trillions in social-security and medicare bucks should be able to mismanage reparations with equal inefficiency.

Deeply in debt and headed eternally deeper, the United States Treasury clearly cannot afford one-hundred trillion dollars, but that is precisely why anti-statist should endorse the reparations movement and support the highest payments. The only possible way the US government could meet such a commitment would be by selling assets. Get it? The more assets government sells the smaller it gets! Reparations for slavery holds the promise of taking the biggest bite out of government in America since the British packed up their governors and other minions and departed for England after the battle of Yorktown.

The federal government of the United States owns enough land to settle every descendant of a slave with hundreds of acres of land each. The land that is in the hands of the government is a financial drain upon taxpayers and a blight upon the environment, but its value on the market would pay the trillions needed for reparations. Government-owned land mainly serves

to corrupt bureaucratic administrators and large resource users, politicize land-management policy, foster civil discord and ensure environmental degradation. Nobody is ultimately responsible for government land that everybody owns. Worst of all, federal lands bloat the size of the unholy state. The abrupt end of America's experiment with the concept of small, strictly limited federal government can be traced directly to the Louisiana Purchase, which placed ownership of one-third of a continent in the hands of the federal government. To accommodate its new responsibility, government had to expand, and it never stopped growing.

A sale to meet the cost, or a direct distribution of federally owned lands to the descendants of slaves, would touch off an economic expansion of enormous proportion and extremely long duration. As the new owners set about restoring and improving their land and putting it to its highest-value use, new production, greater productivity and newly created wealth would flow from the land and its new owners to all Americans and throughout the nation's home economy. The growth in California's economy as a result of the Gold Rush, and the boom to Oklahoma's economy which resulted from the Homestead Act provide an inkling of what would be in store for all of America with passage of a Reparations for Slavery Act.

NEWS BULLETIN: (November 3, 2004) Voters returned George Bush to the Oval Office by the narrowest margin. Exit polls indicated that a whopping 99 percent of African-American voters chose Bush because of his announcement over the weekend that he would send up legislation to Congress to convey trillions of dollars worth of federal lands to the those American whose ancestors had been enslaved in America.

**BLOG #4** (September '4)

### **THE ASSAULT OF THE ASSAULT-WEAPONS ASSAILANTS**

It is axiomatic that violence begets violence. Those who initiate force in the conduct of otherwise peaceful human affairs violate the dictates of every religion's code of right conduct. People who resort to force or coercion to obtain their wants or achieve their objectives are enemies of civilization.

A law banning assault weapons clearly does not impact assault weapons. Assault weapons don't give a hoot about laws or legislatures. They do not involve themselves in human affairs. Only humans do that. That's why we call them *human affairs*. An assault-weapons ban only effects people.

A government assault-weapons ban injects the State's forcible police powers into otherwise peaceful human intercourse. Enforcing such a ban requires the implementation of unprovoked aggression. An assault-weapons ban constitutes assault with a deadly weapon, to wit: the gun in the hand of enforcement authorities.

It might be okay to initiate state violence to exclude assault weapons from a peaceful society if it wasn't for that indisputable fact first stipulated: Violence begets more violence. A ban might work if action did not precipitate reaction. But violence does not operate in fantasy land or a vacuum. There is always a price to be paid. In the case of a government ban on assault weapons requiring police force or coercion to implement, the inevitable consequence is more violence, more assaults. The means (police violence) are counterproductive of the desired ends (less violence). It won't work. It can only make matters worse.

If there is karma or Divine retribution, those who resort to the sword to control their peaceful neighbors are bound to be stung themselves, sooner or later. The ends they aim at may be worthy, but that won't save them. For the sake of peaceable people and to protect them from themselves, assault-weapons banners ought to be locked up, or at least locked out of every legislature.

**BLOG #3** (September '04)

### **SALES-TAX VICTIMS**

Will Rodgers opined that the income tax had made more Americans liars than the game of golf, and so it has. However, almost as corrosive to Americans' integrity is the ubiquitous sales tax. Unlike the income tax, the sales tax doesn't corrupt the taxpayer so much as it corrupts the clerks,

cashiers, waiters, barbers, business and professional people of all stripes, etc., who, at the prodding of the state and without compensation, collect taxes from their customers. That makes them tax collectors, and, according to Jesus, sinners. (See my essay, *Jesus of Nazareth, Illegal-Tax Protester*, available by clicking on the “download Jesus” page of this website.) The good news for such folks is that salvation is readily available if, as chief tax collector Zacchaeus did when he met Jesus, they stop collecting taxes. (See the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 19: Verses 1-10)

It is also easier to resist the income tax than a sales tax. Many books and websites offer advice—some good, some awful—on resisting the income tax. Nothing is available on how to beat the sales (and use) tax, which is imposed on consumers by state and local politicians, but collected by the above-named sinners. The sales tax is effective because taxpayers allow the people who take their money to escape the contempt they should earn as tax collectors, scorn which IRS agents avoid by hiding their true occupation. (One rarely if ever meets an IRS agent in a social setting. When not working and asked what they do, they lie or obfuscate to avoid the shame and embarrassment that deservedly attends their occupation.)

The easiest way for an American to resist the tax is to live in one of five states that do not tax retail sales: Alaska, New Hampshire, Montana, Delaware and Oregon. You can resist your home state’s sales tax by purchasing from another state by mail, phone or Internet. Unfortunately, some greedy states have begun to impose their sales tax on out-of-state purchases.

In the state of Ohio, food eaten inside a restaurant is taxed, whereas carry-out food is not. This affords an opportunity. In the past, I would lie, telling the counter person that my McDonald’s order was “to go,” and then eat it in. However, lying is spiritually more debilitating than paying taxes, so today I say truthfully and emphatically, “I don’t pay tax on my food, if that’s your reason for asking.” Ordinarily the clerk makes the determination and treats my order as “to go,” charging me accordingly. I can then eat in with a clear conscience. This ploy is of no use in North Carolina, where everything but the air is taxed.

In retail stores, before I take my selections to the cashier, I compute the total. When the cashier says, "That will be twenty-one dollars, please," I say, "That can't be right." I then point out that the total is only twenty dollars. After consulting the sales slip or computer screen, the momentarily bewildered cashier brightens and says, "Oh, but there is also tax of one dollar." I look at the clerk with visible indignation and say, "Oh, so you're a tax collector?" Always discomfited, some typical responses are, "No, I'm just an employee. I charge whatever the cash register says." Or, "Not me. The store (or state) collects the tax, I'm just doing my job." Or, "Don't blame me. My boss would fire me if I didn't charge you tax." My rejoinder is, "But you are the one who is collecting the tax from me, are you not?" Cashier, "Well, yes." Me, "Then you are the tax collector." Cashier, "Yeah, I guess so," or, "If you say so." I say, "Did you know that Jesus likened tax collectors to prostitutes and other sinners?" By this time the people behind me in line are ready to stone me, so I hand the cashier a small card imprinted with a few negative comments that Jesus made regarding tax collectors, with citations to the Gospels.

Since businesses are more concerned with selling their wares than collecting taxes for the state without compensation, I imagine some would not charge sales tax if a customer bluntly declared, "No tax, or, no sale!" A merchant would have three choices: Forgo the sale; make the sale and pay the tax to the state for the customer, in effect giving the customer a discount; or, make the sale and not report it to the tax authorities. How the merchant handles it is not the customer's concern. I haven't tried this yet, but I intend to.

My objective is to pay no taxes so that my money doesn't support government activities that violate God's law, such as using or threatening to use force to collect taxes (viz., engaging in robbery and extortion), throwing people in jail for victimless "crimes," and killing people. Nor will I have corrupt politicians and bureaucritters as my agents waxing fat off my money. It would be better for me and America if I flushed it down the toilet. I'd love to hear from people who share my view, as well as those who find them odious. Use this website's "contact us" page, and...Keep the faith,  
Sincerely.....Ned

## **BLOG #2 (August '04)**

### **MUSLIM VERSUS CHRISTIAN**

Any Christian fundamentalist can tell you that the United States is a Christian nation. Every Islamic fundamentalist will tell you that Arabia is Muslim territory. A line in the sand has been drawn by fundamentalists between Christianity and Islam, the United States versus Arabia. Clearly, this a religious war and the outcome will be determined by God. If I were a betting man, I'd put my money on the Arabs.

Here's my reasoning: Your typical Christian only prays to God in the morning and evening, plus whenever he is in trouble during the day. His prayers are most frequent during those times when the nation is at war, which for the United States is most times. Your good Muslim, on the other hand, prays five times a day and invokes the blessings of Allah upon everything he does, especially when engaged in blowing up Christians, which is routine. If God credits both sides equally for their respective prayers for success in military attacks and terrorist acts, Muslims come out ahead of Christians five to two in the daily prayer department by virtue of their more frequent formal prayers. By God, five to two are pretty good odds.

As regards fasting as a devotion to God, Muslims also appear to have Christians beat. Muslims fast from sun up to sun down for the entire month of Ramadan. Many go so far as to spit out rather than swallow their own saliva when they are fasting. The practice of fasting is near universal among Muslims. Christian fasting, on the other hand, is more diet than fast. And while it may be conducted over a longer period (Lent is forty days), the practice is far from universal even among fundamentalists. In scoring this veneration, Islam is clearly ahead on God's score card.

All Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during a life time, with many going more often. Although some Christians do occasionally travel to shrines such as Fatima, Bethlehem and Cleveland, their numbers are fewer than the millions who visit Mecca, Medina and other Islamic holy sites. So in this devotional category, Muslims have the advantage.

In outward devotion to Allah, Muslims win hands down. Even their dress is a form of devotion. At least among those fundamentalists I see on television, Christian garb pays greater homage to Christian Dior than Jesus Christ.

If God is more inclined to bestow His favor upon the oppressed rather than oppressors, which seems likely given His reputation, Muslims have the upper hand again. There are tens of thousands of the Christians' military troops in Arabia and the Persian Gulf, whereas there are no Muslim forces at all in America or the Gulf of Mexico. God is certain to factor this fact into his determination of who is the aggressor.

Arabs do not appear to covet Alaskan oil, whereas Americans obviously covet Arabian oil, else why would they keep ships and troops over there constantly guarding it? Since God wrote two commandments explicitly forbidding covetousness, I have to think that the Christian United States are definitely in trouble with God on this issue.

Finally, because God commands his children not to kill, He should prefer Muslims to Christians on this account. While Arabs have slaughtered lots of innocents ruthlessly and barbarically, including mercilessly exterminating women and children, they have yet to apply Western science and technology to the killing discipline by creating weapons like the atomic bomb to efficiently kill *en masse*. When you're talking wholesale slaughter of biblical proportions, there is truly no comparison between America's Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Arabian terrorists' worst atrocities.

Let me be clear that I don't profess to know how, when, or on whose side God will intervene in any religious war, but I do know how to handicap a race and spot a winner now and then. If God does side with the Muslims as I predict, He could send unremitting storms to inundate the east coast of the United States, unrelenting drought to parch the western states, and a horde of unrestrained politicians and bureaucrats to swarm over Washington and spend the nation into insolvency, forcing Christian America to capitulate and embrace Islam. However He intercedes, it's a cinch it won't be fun for the losers.

Oh, yeah! There is one caveat with my pick. God could decide that neither side is worthy of His notice, and let the antagonists attack and terrorize each other *ad infinitum*, which would be sort of like Hell for the rest of us. Keep the faith...Ned

## NED'S BLOG, FRIDAY, 4 JUNE 2004

8. After twenty days of a complete fast (no calories), I have had to modify my plan. I will finish the 40-day fast, but during the second 20 days I will abstain from solid food, while taking nourishment in the form of milk, juice, thin soups, etc.

Let me tell you about my fast and why I have had to modify it. In 20 days I lost 29 pounds, from 177 to 148. I was fat to start and I still could lose 15 to 20 pounds without being too thin. My lean body mass (weight exclusive of fat) is about 120 pounds. I assume I will continue to lose weight, only not as rapidly.

My health remains excellent. My daily routine has been more active than most sedentary Americans, but less than most who keep fit through exercise. I will work out more during the second half of my fast to insure that I keep losing weight.

These are the physical signs of starvation that I notice: I am somewhat lethargic, but I sleep less (6hours Vs.8hours). I do not have bowel movements. My eyes tire easily. In recent days I have caught myself losing my balance a few times. My mind seems to work slower. I have not craved food, but I often think about eating--good things. I'm pretty tired of drinking water, coffee, tea and no-cal. beverages. The only one of the latter I found that I like is Schweppes diet tonic water, and I'm sick of that. I miss the smell and taste of food.

I modified my fast for two reasons: Next week I must take care of my four-year-old grandson. I cannot be slow of mind or wit and responsible for him. The other reason is that someone I love who knew of my fast pleaded with me to stop, fearing that I would injure myself. Upon her urging I agreed to take liquid nourishment, but I am glad I did. I might have made it forty days, but I don't think so, and a modified fast will do, I believe. I do not believe it is possible to injure myself by fasting as long as my motives for doing so are good.

Irwin Schiff's trial has been delayed at least until September. Good. That will give us more time to pray for him.

Amanda Mohler (see [www.amandamohler.com](http://www.amandamohler.com)) continues to recover. After 6 weeks in intensive care and step down, and 6 weeks in a rehab, her mom, Linda, brought her home this week. Amanda is a miracle child. A week after her accident the doctors concluded that she had no brain activity and would at best only be kept alive artificially in a coma. With the family's anguished consent, it was decided to take her off life support and remove her vital organs for donation. The doctors had given up, but the many people who were praying for her had not. Amanda was being prepared by nurses for removal of her organs when she raised a hand to her head! Whoops.

If anyone reading this would like to help Amanda, please pray for her complete recovery. The prognosis for that right now is dubious. It is going to take another miracle. You might also consider buying the cards on sale at her website. They were created from Amanda's original art works by her family to try to raise some money to defray mind-boggling medical expenses. You won't regret it because when she becomes as recognized as Picasso a few years from now, you'll want to have saved some of her cards. For an eleven-year-old child, they are THAT good.

**BLOG # 1** (May '04)

### **FREE IRWIN SCHIFF!**

Our essay, *Jesus of Nazareth, Illegal-Tax Protester*, is dedicated to Irwin Schiff, among others. I call Irwin the federal government's No. 1 enemy because of the incalculable harm he has done to the carefully crafted image of the federal income tax and the contrived reputation of the Internal Revenue Service. Through his prolific production of books, seminars, tapes, radio shows and other public forums, Irwin Schiff has singlehandedly negated the multi-billion-dollar public relations efforts of the IRS. That is good, because the income tax is bad.

I particularly admire Irwin for his tenacity. He is like a bulldog with its jaws fastened to the snout of a raging bull. Although he has taken an horrific beating at the hands of the feds for having the temerity to publicly challenge the legality of their precious income tax, Irwin continues to speak out, or in bulldog terms, hang on.. The IRS has tried most everything in its

considerable arsenal to silence him, knock him off their snout. Now the feds are on him again like a pack of hyaenas, which is why he needs our help.

A brief history of Irwin's travails is in order. Schiff spent six months in prison and was fined \$10,000.00 in 1980 for refusing to file income tax returns in 1974 and 1975. In 1982, Irwin wrote *How Anyone Can Stop Paying Income Taxes*. Fearful that anyone associated with such a book would incur the the IRS's wrath, no publisher would touch it. So Irwin published his book himself. Then, thanks to Irwin's extraordinary promotional skills, he accomplished the impossible. He turned his self-published book into a best seller. At that point, Simon & Shuster wanted in on the action since the IRS appeared disinterested. Irwin agreed to let S&S take over because the volume of sales was taxing his ability to keep pace. In fact the IRS was anything but disinterested. It was determined to silence Irwin and ban his book. When S&S took over distribution, the IRS saw its opening and pounced. It descended on S&S and ordered (not with a requisite court order, but a lawless IRS order) the publisher to hand over Irwin's royalties (over \$200,000.00 as I recall). The courageous executives at S&S immediately rolled over on their backs, urinated on the carpeting of their swank offices, and gave Irwin's money to the feds. For all intents and purposes, that was the end of *How Anyone Can Stop Paying Income Taxes*.

Or it would have been if the feds were dealing with a poodle. Bulldog Schiff merely resurrected his publishing house, Freedom Books, and ramped up distribution to meet the public's demand, which increased when the national media reported on the feds' Gestapo-like tactics to silence Schiff. In effect, when IRS flacks trumpeted their successful use of brute force to bury Irwin and his book, intending thereby to discourage others from adopting Schiff's position on the tax. Irwin turned the IRS-generated publicity into a PR bonanza and sold more copies than ever.

Of course a bull doesn't retire from the arena just because a graceful matador eludes its murderous horns on its first few charges. Hyaenas are relentless in pursuit of their quarry. The IRS was enraged by Irwin's unlikely publishing and public-relations coups. The continuing sales of Irwin's book was a red cape in the IRS's face, and it went after Schiff as if he was Al Capone reincarnated. On trumped up charges of income tax evasion, and

with the aid of a compliant federal judge in thrall to the IRS and the income tax that pays federal judges their life-long-plus-life-of-spouse emoluments, the IRS sent Irwin to prison. With Irwin in jail and unable to distribute it, *How Anyone Can Stop Paying Income Taxes* was effectively extinguished.

After almost two years and the payment of large fines (ransom) by a relative, Irwin was released on parole. His time in prison was not wasted for as soon as he got out he started writing a new book entitled, *The Federal Mafia, How it Illegally Imposes and Unlawfully Collects the Income Tax*. When the IRS got wind of what Schiff was up to, it conjured up a parole violation and sent Irwin back to prison! Lesser men would have thrown in the towel, but like Nelson Mandela, Lech Walesa and Mohandas Gandhi, incarceration did not deter Schiff.

From 1990 until 2003 the IRS watched in disbelief as Irwin's unflagging efforts built his moribund publishing house into a thriving media business exclusively targeting the IRS and the income tax. Worse, by 2003 a small army of "Schiffies" had begun emulating Irwin's income-tax denial techniques as prescribed in his books and on tapes. Schiff's anti-tax rhetoric began to have a measurable impact on U.S. Treasury receipts. The IRS decided that Schiff had to be silenced--permanently!

In March of 2003, the IRS applied to a federal district-court judge in Nevada by the name of George III--I'm not kidding, that's his name--for an injunction against Irwin Schiff prohibiting him from selling his book or speaking out in public against the income tax. Although the First Amendment precludes the government from issuing any such orders, George III granted everything the IRS requested, banned Irwin's book and issued a palpably illegal--but IRS enforceable--order gagging him!

On April 19, 2003, on the same day that U.S. troops entered Iraq in a war to topple Saddam Hussein, IRS agents raided Schiff's Freedom Books, confiscating his computers, records and everything they could take that would hamper Schiff's ability to defend himself against the government's legal assault. Make no mistake about this, Schiff's commentary on the illegitimacy of the income tax and the IRS were deemed far more dangerous to the survival of a bloated federal government than all of the weapons of

mass destruction that Saddam supposedly possessed. Terrorism has proven to be a catalyst for growth of government and expansion of federal powers, whereas Irwin Schiff's anti-income-tax rhetoric threatens to cut the government down to size. So, who do you think the federal bureaucracy would rather be rid of, Schiff or Ossama bin Laden?

A book-banning, speech-silencing injunction was too much for some of America's timorous defenders of the First Amendment, who had never come to Schiff's defense in the past. This time, however, the IRS went too far. Even the ACLU and PEN, organizations manifestly beholden to the IRS filed friend-of-the-court briefs on Irwin's behalf. The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit suspended the lower court's draconian order while Schiff's appealed. Given the order's egregious violation of the First Amendment's guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, there is little question that Schiff will prevail and George III's order squashed.

With it apparent that it would lose its bid to silence Schiff with an injunction, the IRS pulled its fifth ace from its hat, and brought a laundry list of felony criminal charges against Irwin that could send him to jail for 43 years. At seventy-six years of age that is the equivalent of a life sentence for Irwin! The charges against Irwin are no more legitimate than Alabama's charges of sedition against Martin Luther King for campaigning for civil rights. Both Martin's and Irwin's prosecutions constitute desperate acts of thug governments. In the long run, such governments never survive, but in the short run, great men like King and Schiff who challenge them often must die.

This litany of terrorist assaults against a man who dares to question the government's taxing authority mentions only the major persecutions of Schiff over a period of thirty years. It leaves out a plethora of lesser harassment and abuse that Schiff has suffered. Many IRS acts were so blatantly illegal that in the face of his impotence to respond by lawful means because his oppressors wield the police powers, lesser men than Irwin would long since have turned to violence. Throughout it all, with only a few brief bouts of depression, Schiff's integrity and resolve have never wavered. Perhaps no American in the past 100 years has given as much of himself for the freedom of his fellow Americans than the irrepressible Irwin Schiff. He

certainly has more guts than anyone else I know.

It has been my pleasure to know Irwin Schiff personally. I have broken bread with him, laughed heartily at his ebullient humor, and responded with feigned amazement to his amateur magic tricks. This came about when Irwin ran for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination, which, by the way, scared the hell out of the feds because of the national publicity he would have garnered for his anti-income-tax rhetoric if he succeeded. I volunteered to be his unlicensed chauffeur and shuttle him around for a week of his New Hampshire primary campaign. I grew to love Irwin, not for what he was doing to defeat the income tax, but because at heart he is a kind and gentle man.

Although I personally haven't paid any income tax since 1971, and for many years actively challenged the IRS and the federal income tax, I have not been engaged in that epic battle since I embraced the cause of repairing Jesus' reputation sometime around 1993. I no longer see the income tax as America's biggest problem. I see mankind's top problem to be its failure to embrace Jesus' teaching by renouncing force and violence in the conduct of human affairs. Although war and taxation are respectively the most destructive and the most ubiquitous consequences resulting from that failure, those are but symptoms of the primary disease, which is our acquiescence in the use of force.

I am not a Schiffie. I have not bought any of Irwin's books or tapes since purchasing a copy of *How Anyone* in 1982 when I noticed it in a book-store's window. I hadn't had any recent contact with Irwin until I called to offer him my encouragement and assistance when I learned of his current troubles. My decision to support Irwin as I intend to do (see below) arises primarily from my instinctive empathy with the underdog, particularly when I witness one being brutalized by a gang of arrogant, overgrown bullies.

To be perfectly frank, Irwin doesn't stand a snowball's chance in hell of escaping the IRS's latest assault. Saddam Hussein's ragtag army was more likely to defeat the mighty U.S. military in conventional warfare than any individual tax protester has of surviving an all-out attack by the IRS and the United States Department of Justice within the usurped jurisdiction of a tax-dependent federal judiciary. Irwin's defense will be thwarted at every turn by

vociferously objecting federal prosecutors sustain by a bought judge. His fate will rest in the hands of a jury, each member of which will be a tax-paying U.S. citizen, subject to tax audits by the IRS, and given IRS-crafted jury instructions by a menacing federal judge doing the government's bidding. In other words, against the richest, most powerful nation ever assembled by human hands, Irwin Schiff is doomed to be convicted. And if his is acquitted or achieves a hung jury, the IRS will follow up with new charges and trials until Schiff's voice is silenced.

On the other hand, if God was on Irwin's side, the invincible power of the United States government would be scattered like so much chaff. The way I see it, the only question is this: How can God's grace be invoked on Irwin's behalf? I have a plan to accomplish just that, but it will take the help and sacrifice of many others to ensure its success.

Irwin's trial is scheduled to begin June 24, 2004. I propose a period of forty days of community fasting and prayer leading up to his trial date, commencing on Saturday, May 16th and ending the day before Irwin's trial, Wednesday, June 23rd. I will abstain from nourishment (calories) for the entire period, but everyone concerned about Irwin's fate is invited to join in a full or partial fast (perhaps sun up to sun down as Muslim's fast, or liquids only, or any other form of rigorous self-denial) or a fast of shorter duration during the forty-day period, or daily prayer only. Throughout the forty days all who participate are requested to pray each day that God lavish His grace on Irwin. That should suffice to reverse the odds at his trial and doom the government to failure.

Two caveats for those who join in this spiritual endeavor. The purpose of fasting must not be *against* the government nor any other institution or individual. Rather it must be *for ourselves* in reparation for our own transgressions so that we may become worthy of having our prayers of supplication well received by God. Fasting is a powerful spiritual tool that Moses and Gandhi successfully used to save their nations, and that Jesus employed at the outset of his ministry to ensure its success and everyone salvation. It is not something to be used in anger or abused.

It would be nice to know that others have joined in this exercise. You can let

me know who you are by going to the "contact us" page, but that isn't necessary. God will be aware of any prayer or sacrifice you make for Irwin, and God will answer your prayers! Keep the faith...Ned Netterville