

The Dollar Bill

The Dollar Bill: Author Unknown

A lesson for our citizens in the United States of America as our country gets ready to select two individuals; one that will become our next President. Take out a one-dollar bill and look at it.

The one-dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balance—a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved. If you look at the left hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything. "IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet no one knows what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: first, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown.

We had just broken from the King of England.

Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people." Above the Eagle you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one.

Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

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They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But, think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E PLURIBUS UNUM", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wing, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

Why don't we know this?" Your children don't know this and their history teachers don't know this. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all. Tell everyone what is on the back of the one-dollar bill and what it stands for, because nobody else will.

1. Define Patriotism: One who loves his country and zealously guards it's welfare.
2. Are we as Christians supposed to be patriots? Yes, men of old..
3. How are we responsible to the government in which we live?

Several ways, we will spend a little time looking at it...

-Luke 20:20-25 "And they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so as to deliver Him up to the **rule and the authority of the governor**. 21 And they questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. 22 **"Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"** 23 But He detected their trickery and said to them, 24 "Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" And they said, "Caesar's." 25 And He said to them, **"Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,** and to God the things that are God's." NAS

Jesus said we are financially accountable to the Gov! YES, but did Jesus practice what he preached?

-Matt 17:24-27 24 "And when they had come to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter, and said, "Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?"

Exod 30:11-14 This was not a tax of Rome, but of the temple to pay for the care of it's duties, "it was known as a ransom of the souls."

25 He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?"

Interesting, **who did coll. talk to**, Peter? **Why?** Peter lived in Caper and Jesus was staying with him. **WHO TALKED TO JESUS? NO ONE, HE KNEW!**

26 And upon his saying, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, **"Consequently the sons are exempt.** 27 "But, lest we give them offense, go to the sea, and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a stater. Take that and give it to them for you and Me." NAS

What do you think Jesus meant by his question to Peter? Where does the Kings family rec. their money? Taxes, tributes. Did the Sons of the king have to pay taxes? NO! THIS was a TRIBUTE for the LORD, and the LORD'S son should be exempt.

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Can you think of a 3rd time this topic came up about Jesus and taxes?

-Ironically, it was the first false charge against him!

-**Luke 23:1-2** "Then the whole body of them arose and brought Him before Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." NAS

ODD, I know there are murderers who get off on technicalities, and I know there are rapists and kidnappers who walk the streets. BUT you don't hear of many tax-evaders who are free to walk the streets!

Taxes are a most serious matter to the GOV.

-**1 Peter 2:13-17** "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. 17 Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. NAS

-**Rom 13:1-2** "Let every **person be in subjection to the governing authorities**. For there is **no authority except from God**, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. NAS

Understand, that does not mean that the best man always wins!

-OT times the Lord allowed an evil King to rule over the people

-Peoples responsibility to Still follow God's will, (Saul, Daniel, Fiery Furnace)

As Christians then, I really believe we have a duty to vote:

-We have a voice, however small, and a responsibility!

-Start with our School Boards, City Council, Mayor, Judges, Sheriff, County Reps

THIS DOLLAR may be worshipped more than the GOD JEHOVAH

THIS DOLLAR may be more respected than GOD JEHOVAH

THIS DOLLAR may be the ONLY UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE left on this earth.

BUT, it's not the Dollars fault....it's not the governments fault....

It's our responsibility to: Respect our Gov, but Worship our God