

## Do You Own A Mansion?

I just recently returned it! Yes, I'm talking about that little form which requires us to list property owned, vehicles, boats and even goats. Oh! I almost forgot to mention puppy dogs!

Actually this little form got me to thinking. There is so much in the scripture related to taxation and finances, even the birth place of Jesus. Luke 19:1-10 tells us that Zacchaeus, a tax collector had a salvation experience and promised to return all he had taken dishonestly. In Matthew 17:27 Jesus instructed Peter to catch the first fish and to take the coin from its mouth to pay taxes for the both of them.

This crazy economy reminds me of the words of Paul found in Philippians 4:11-13 NLT Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

Recently while meditating on this scripture I've been drawn to one special word - "LEARNED." Learning is critical. It brings me to remembrance of the ten months of unemployment and eventual relocation our family experienced just days after the birth of our son twenty-five years ago. We learned so much through that hardship. One lesson was that so much is a matter of perception. I am constantly reminding my clients that their identity is in Christ and not their bank accounts. The following little poem shared by a friend says it well:

### Tax Exempt

The assessor approached with weary tread and knocked at a farmhouse door.  
Not much of value here he said, the surroundings looked very poor.  
The room he entered was cozy and warm, the couple was aged and gray.

From his portfolio he selected a farm and said in a business way  
I'm here to appraise your property sir to determine your wealth you see.  
I'm the assessor you might infer, will you answer some questions for me?

Oh we have great riches he quickly replied their faces aglow with bliss.  
The assessor awaited with pencil poised, waiting the items to list.

Our mutual love we value quite high, it began such a long time ago.

Each passing year has strengthened the tie, that increases the value you know.  
Our health is more precious than silver and gold the Master has been very kind.  
We enjoy each day as it comes and goes, while so many in illness repine.

We've quite a fortune in relics too, any price you would name would be small.  
A soft golden curl a little worn shoe and the fingerprints there on the wall.  
We've a special interest in Heaven too, she departed this life at three.

A jewel in Heaven with value true. That's quite an asset you see.  
The astonished assessor squirmed in his shoes, he was finding it hard to relax.  
They truly have great riches he mused but not one thing I can tax.

We have no possessions they calmly explained to lock in a vault of steel.  
Possessions and riches are different you see. Our riches the things that we feel.  
There's one more that is quite vital, you may be a little surprised.  
We hold a blood bought title to a mansion in the skies.

The puzzled assessor bowed himself out in utter exasperation.  
The richest couple he had ever known was entirely exempt from taxation.

Author Unknown

I have heard it said that death and taxes are the only certainties for all of us in this life! With this in mind I have a question to ask. Do you hold a tax exempt, blood bought title to a mansion in the sky?