

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We Are Recreated in the Image of God by the Cross of Christ



Roman Coin w/ image of Caesar.

and daily repent of our wrongs, and commit our lives to faithful service to the calling provided to us by our Lord. This we are able to do by accepting the work of the Holy Spirit in guiding our lives. So it is God that helps us to “render unto God the things that are God”.

Background: Following Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode triumphant into Jerusalem and then cleaned out the temple of corrupt activities, we remember on Monday the Jewish leaders asked by what authority He was able to do this/ Christ then told a marriage parables on followed by another marriage festival on Tuesday which carried the caution of a person trying to attend the marriage feast in his own clothing (sinful) which would preclude him from living in heaven. Today the Jewish leaders trying to trap Christ, asked Him if it was acceptable to pay taxes to Caesar hoping to make him enemies of either Rome or the people. Christ simply asked to see Caesar's coin, and asked whose image was on it, They said Caesar's He then said to to Caesar the things that are Caesars and to God the things that are God. What does this mean? Since we were created in God's image, our being should be dedicated to loving and trusting in the Lord with our whole body, life, and soul. Of course there are demands of this life—Family, living expenses, vocations, and even taxes that we dutifully fulfilled. However, we recognize that we do sin

The Lessons Isaiah 45:1–7, 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10, & Matthew 22:15–22

Plotting against Jesus, the Pharisees attempted “*to entangle him in his words*” by asking about the payment of taxes to Caesar (Matt. 22:15). The Lord pointed to coins required for the tax, and He answered that we should “*render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's*” (Matt. 22:21). But if coins bearing the image of Caesar should be rendered to him, then man — who is made in the image of God — must be rendered to the Lord. That tax is paid for us by the Lord Jesus, the image of God in the flesh, by His self-offering on the cross. And from His cross, as the Lord's anointed, He reigns as the true Caesar over all nations “*from the rising of the sun and from the west*” (Is. 45:6). The Lord once called and anointed Cyrus “*to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings*” (Is. 45:1). Now by the preaching of the Gospel, “*in power and in the Holy Spirit*” (1 Thess. 1:5), foreigners from all over the world are “*turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God*” (1 Thess. 1:9–10).