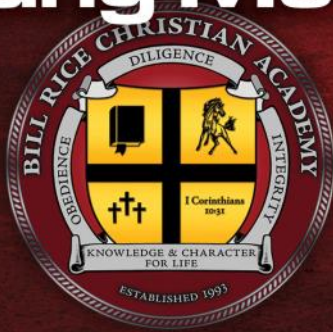


# Mustang Message



December 2023

## Taxes Can Be Good? By Nathan Reeves

So you're intrigued! My title lured you in! Now before you get upset, reread the title and notice the question mark. I'm not advocating for more taxes or even justifying current taxes. I'm just asking a question... can good come from having to pay taxes?

Well, just ask Joseph. If you could ask Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, I think he'd have an interesting take on taxes.

God used something as (relatively) terrible as taxes to get Joseph & Mary to Bethlehem so the prophecy of Jesus' birth could be fulfilled. Approximately 800 years earlier, the prophet Micah wrote, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." (Micah 5:2) But Joseph & Mary did not live in Bethlehem. How would they get there? Why would they be out of town at the time Mary's Baby was due?

The simple answer is taxes.

Do you think Joseph was thrilled to have to pack up everything & make this long journey just to give money to the government? Absolutely not! Was he

thinking about Micah's prophecy & how God might be using bad to bring about good? Maybe, maybe not. I know I probably wouldn't be thinking that way! So in spite of Joseph's seemingly short-sighted & earthly point of view, God used taxes to bring about His will in their lives. And, even more importantly, He used taxes to fulfill a prophecy and bring our Savior into this world.

Now since God used undesirable circumstances to fulfill His will in Joseph's life, He can do the same in our lives too.

Sometimes it's easy to see God working in others' lives (like we can look back & see how God worked in Joseph's life), but it's hard for us to realize this in the middle of our own trials. It's difficult to shift our eyes from the here & now to what God might be doing in the big picture.

Are you in the middle of a trial or undesirable circumstance? If so, turn your eyes to Him & ask Him to show you the big picture. If you're not in a trial, you will probably be soon (surprise!). Either way, let's all try to learn something from Joseph's life... that taxes (trials) can be good.



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*"It's difficult to shift our eyes from the here and now to what God might be doing in the big picture."*

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# Current Events

## Dec. 19 Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert will be at 7:00 p.m. and will include choirs, poems, Scripture reading, instrumentals and more—all performed by our student body! Plan to bring your family and friends since all our K4-10th grade students will have a part in the concert. Refreshments will be served in the Dining Hall afterwards. It will be an enjoyable evening for all!



## Dec. 20 Class Christmas Parties

The last day of school in 2023 will be filled with food and fun! Elementary students will go Christmas caroling around the Ranch, and each class will enjoy a gift exchange (\$5-\$7)! School will dismiss at 2:00.

## Dec. 21-Jan. 3 Christmas Break

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! Enjoy the two weeks with friends and family.

## Jan. 4 First Day Back!

# #PixOfTheMonth



# Students of the Month

**Quinton Yost:** Quinton has consistently shown thankfulness in and out of the classroom for the entire month! He has been an excellent example to other classmates! I am so proud of you, Quinton!

**Bella Brasier:** Bella has a very thankful spirit. She remembers to verbally give thanks without reminders. Thank you, Bella!

**Scott Wells:** Scott has shown a heart of thankfulness this month. He says "Thank you" or "No, thank you" if he is given something. He also will not complain when he doesn't get something.

**Sophia Perez-Muniz:** Sophia always comes to class with a content and thankful spirit! She sets a great example for her friends by consistently expressing her gratitude and avoiding complaining.

**Oliver McConnell:** Oliver remembers to say "Thank you" every time! He shows thankfulness for others when they help and doesn't complain. Keep it up, Oliver!

**Reid Vernon:** Reid always remembers to say "Thank you" when necessary without being prompted. He shows his thankful heart everyday with it ready on his tongue.

**Paisley Bowen:** Paisley is grateful for everything! She's the first to say "Thank you" and always encourages others to have a happy attitude.

## Character Trait of the Month:

# INTEGRITY

**Definition:** state of being entire; honesty

**Examples:**

1. Even if you might get into trouble, always tell your teacher the truth.
2. Never exaggerate the truth to your friends.

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