

Putting God First
Exodus 13:1-2, 11-15

During a political debate, a student asked the candidates this question, “How much of every dollar I earn do you think I should get to keep?” Unfortunately, the candidates were never required to answer the question outright. To do so would have revealed much about their philosophy of government and taxation. Their answers would have provided insight into their views of ownership, distribution of wealth, and overall economic policy. As believers, I think we must ask a similar question, not of candidates, but of ourselves.

1. The _____ belongs to God
 - A. It is to be _____
 - B. It is to be _____
 - C. It is to be _____
2. The _____ belongs to God
 - A. This offering _____ faith
 - B. This offering _____ blessing
 - C. This offering _____ God’s preeminence
3. The _____ belongs to God
 - A. Tithing _____ the Law
 - B. Grace _____ the Law
 - C. Tithing _____ the Gospel

As you look at politics and try to find a candidate that will answer the debate question to your satisfaction, would you also take time to consider our second question, “How much of every dollar God provides am I willing to live on?” What are some areas where we struggle putting God first? Which of the message points were easiest to accept and which ones are still difficult? Would you be willing to put God first by believing in His Son, Jesus?