AND GOD SAYS . . . Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

You have probably seen the ads on TV informing people that if they are behind in their taxes they can call a certain telephone number and have them reduced by as much as 75% even or more. The more I hear these ads the more unjust I realize this is and the more it disturbs me.

Just think about it. Instead of being punished for not obeying the law, these people are rewarded by having their taxes cut. Thus you and I are, in effect, penalized for paying our taxes as we have to pay the whole amount. It doesn't figure.

Then compounding the problem is the fact that our government's goal is to raise taxes to meet the growing demand of government. That means that we will be penalized more while those who do not accept responsibility, will be forgiven more. It doesn't figure.

So why does this problem exist? I believe the basic issue is spiritual—we have rejected God's ways and His Truth, the Bible, and have accepted man's wisdom and reason, which is totally inadequate.

If we understood God's wisdom, we would realize that someone else has to pay the price to forgive a debt. Forgiveness is not free. So for every tax debt that is forgiven, you and I have to carry a bigger part of the debt.

That is why Jesus had to die. God could not forgive us and still maintain justice unless someone else paid our debt. That is why God sent His Son to die in our place. He paid the debt for our sin so that God could lovingly forgive us our debt. Now, by meeting God's terms of believing in His Son, we can have eternal life because the debt for our sin is paid in full through Jesus.

Secondly, God does not show favoritism to anyone or any class or nationality of people (Acts 10:34-36). He says "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23); all die and face the God's judgment, (Hebrews 9:27); and God makes the same offer to all men, everywhere, to repent and be saved, (Acts 16:27). It is now our choice to accept God's forgiveness and be saved, or deny we need forgiveness and spend eternity in hell. So, what is your choice?