



The Financially Responsible Steward

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Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household? Blessed is that servant! - Luke 12:42-43

MEDIATION SCRIPTURE

And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: - I Kings 2:3

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

It's not what we have in life, but who we have in our life that matters.
- J.M. Laurence

TAX TIPS

Yes, tax time is here and you may be feeling a bit anxious about filing your return. Here are a few tips that may help alleviate some stress:

A) Take a trip to the IRS office or visit the website, www.irs.gov, and obtain a copy of Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax." It spells out who has to file and when, and what you can deduct as legitimate expenses.

B) You can get free telephone assistance from the IRS by calling 1-800-829-1040 and in certain areas, the IRS has local offices where you can visit and receive assistance.

C) Computer savvy? There are great tax preparation software options available to you and may be just the thing in helping to keep your records accurate.

D) There are always changes to the tax code and it can get very frustrating to figure out what you are supposed to do. Regardless of what deductions you are eligible for, always remember the three D's of taxes: Documentation, Documentation, Documentation! If you don't have a place already, designate a place to keep detailed records of your income, expenses, and other information you expect to report on your return this year and in the years to come. A good set of records and receipts can help save money when you do your taxes and nothing beats a paper trail when you want to have access to all possible deductions.

You can also make donations to our ministry online at www.ABCsOfMoney.com!
Donations to our 501(c)3 ministry are tax deductible.

BEWARE OF TAX SCAMS

Year after year, con artists across the nation try to pull a fast one on honest taxpayers with different types of miracle tax solutions. Don't be fooled by the misleading scams. There is no secret way to get out of paying taxes. The IRS and other federal agencies are aggressively pursuing and successfully prosecuting promoters of these schemes and many of their clients for fraud and tax evasion. Taxpayers who suspect tax fraud can report it to the IRS at 1-800-829-0433.

The IRS urges people to avoid these common schemes: Identity Theft - Identity thieves use someone's personal data to steal his or her financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name and even file fraudulent tax returns.

Phone Scams - Callers posing as agents from the IRS attempting to collect bogus tax debts remain a serious threat to taxpayers. The IRS says that it has seen a surge of these phone scams in recent years as con artists threaten taxpayers with police arrest, deportation and license revocation. Typically, in the scheme, callers posing as IRS representatives say the victims owe money and then threaten arrest if the amount is not paid immediately. Scammers will use fake names and IRS badge numbers and "spoof" or imitate the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling. The best way to handle this? If you're not expecting a call from the IRS, don't pick up.

Phishing - Phishing is a scam where criminals attempt to steal your financial information through the use of email or a fake website. In many cases, bogus emails ask for specific personal information or try to get you to click on a link to install spyware or other malware on your computer. Variation of these schemes are popping up all of the time, with the IRS warning just a few months ago of "a surge of new, sophisticated email phishing scams." Remember that the IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email. If you receive an unsolicited email that appears to be from the IRS, you can report it by forwarding it to phishing@irs.gov. When in doubt, assume it's a scam.

The best advice for you, as a taxpayer, is to think carefully before paying for services or signing important documents. Stay away from claims like "Low income - no documents tax returns." Do not allow someone to exaggerate your income for a tax break. Research any potential tax break by calling the IRS toll free number or looking on their website. If you believe you have been a victim of a scam, immediately file IRS Form 14039 Identity Theft Affidavit, which you can download from the IRS website.

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