

Time to change direction on tax extenders

By **Jaimie Woo**

While the dust is still settling from the mid-term elections and the pundits are trying to figure out what it all means, the American people have made their collective voices heard and delivered a message that they do not like the country's direction. Exit polling data from Election Day showed clear majorities in against growing corporate influence on the political process and in favor of greater corporate accountability. The message is clear: inversions must stop, corporate tax avoidance must end, and special corporate loopholes must close.

The question that remains, of course, is whether Congress will hear that message. As the post-election lame duck session gets underway, Congress has an excellent opportunity to show that they've heard the American people loud and clear by acting on tax extenders. There are two extenders that exemplify the very worst of corporate tax avoidance and should be allowed to fade away.

The first is the Controlled Foreign Corporation (CFC) Look-Through rule. The CFC Look-Through rule allows multinationals to create "stateless income," moving income to low or no-tax countries and avoid U.S. tax in the process. They do this by setting up a network of subsidiaries, one of which own copyrights and patents used by the other foreign subsidiary. The fees paid from the one subsidiary to another create vast profits for these entities and avoid any tax anywhere. Google has heavily utilized

Continued on Page 12

name of social justice, the church tends to be mum on the subject. The church

is willing to stand in front of abortion clinics in defense of life for the unborn, but there is not much standing of protest in defense of black life being taken without impunity. Where is the outrage?

Jesus said, "Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it." I believe that when the church is more concerned with consulting their own ease and safety instead taking up the cross and the cause of Christ and his people they are in danger of losing their lives in the community that surrounds them. If you doubt it, look up how many churches of various denominations have closed down over the past 10 years. And you know what, the community they were in hardly noticed.

Mordecai in the Book of Esther was confident that God would not allow the destruction of his people. He had a trust and conviction that the purposes of evil men would be frustrated. He didn't know how, but he knew that deliverance would come in some way or other, if not from Esther. However, her and her father's house would be destroyed. It was a warning of Divine vengeance. Though the nation will be saved, it will not benefit you. On you will fall a just judgment — having endeavoured to save your life, you will lose it — and your "father's" house will be involved in your ruin.

I wonder. I really wonder whether the church has considered the Book of Esther and how it may very well apply to them and the houses of their Father at this time in history. Perhaps, God has raised you up to your royal dignity and position for this very purpose, and none other, that you should be in a position to save your nation in crisis because make no mistake, the nation is in crisis. It's on fire right now and we need as many hands on deck to keep this thing from burning down flat.

This message is for the church. If you talk about being a force for good and righteousness, then you have to fulfill that calling. With great power comes great responsibility. If you are not standing by the side of the oppressed



and the marginalized, you are standing in the way and history has shown that whatever stands in the way of justice will be mowed remorselessly down, if need be.

The church can no longer afford to use the excuse of being on their knees in prayer, for a reason of not being able to stand on their feet in protest against evil and injustice. In the Bible, Jesus identified, confronted and engaged evil whenever he saw it. It could not abide in His presence. Think about that. Think about who you claim to serve. If you, as the church, are unable or unwilling to identify, confront and engage evil in your lifetime, in your communities, in your nation, in this world, how can you possibly call yourself disciples of Christ?

Kingdoms and empires of this world have come and gone. For everything, there is a beginning and an end; the chariot of history rolls on. For the church, there is only the choice of being on the chariot and on right side of history or of being crushed beneath its awful wheels.