

## FROM OUR PASTOR

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Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

The European Union bureaucracy, always good for a laugh, is a non-stop machine or insane nonsense regulations. This week a new bill is working its way through the many levels of EU committees: **robots must pay social security taxes!!**

This might seem ludicrous to us, that robots should pay social security taxes for all the social security benefits they won't get. However, the list of seemingly insane regulations that began in Europe and migrated across the ocean is not small. Ever hear of Cap and Trade or Carbon tax?

That this proposal really means is that anyone who has the courage to employ robots should be paying higher taxes for doing so? After all, if an employee loses his job and living that is one thing, but if the government misses out on taxes it is not to be tolerated!

Robots are rapidly replacing human labor in unexpected places. Fast food restaurants are now using self-order kiosks and a vending machine approach to delivery in many places. As the minimum wage goes up, employers try to keep their employee number as low as possible. Machines replace faces. Video screens replace eyes and smiles.

Even though they are not referred to as "electronic persons," robots, do not retire, only have some maintenance expense—but no healthcare needs, they don't have families, and replacing them with a more efficient robot will usually not result in a lawsuit. That makes them attractive to employers, particularly in an age when automation gets cheaper while human workers grow more expensive.

Social Security in the US means that government mandatory retirement and disability insurance program. In Europe it means much more. Maternity pay, health care, unemployment pay, generous pensions, and some welfare handouts are at least nominally paid for by taxes on earnings in much the same manner as FICA. Robots threaten that money source.

The robots don't have any money so obviously cannot pay tax. Companies which employ robots will be charged higher taxes for doing so, probably for every hour the robot is in use. One more way that Socialism has concocted to penalize those who produce.

The reward of labor is something that our Creator God intended for us. **Psalm 128:2 says,** "When you eat the labor of your hands, you *shall be* happy, and it *shall be* well with you." The modern society of work and employment is in conflict with our Creator's intentions. We see huge corporate firms replacing family farms and people working like ants in large cities, living house to house and apartment to apartment. This is not what God intended.

Wise King Solomon observed, "*Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him, for it is his heritage. As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor – this is the gift of God.*" Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

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