

# TAX TALK: TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Smart Money Moves for BIGGER SAVINGS

**February 15, 2025** 

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- Providing training throughout the year to address biblical stewardship relevant for everyone–from the financially secure to the financially distressed
- Offering one-on-one confidential coaching to individuals and families
- Making resources available for continued financial education



www.ChristChurchUSA.org/FEM

# SAMUEL ODURO

SAMUEL ODURO IS A TAX DIRECTOR AT A MULTI-FAMILY OFFICE WITH A NET WORTH OVER \$25 BILLION, SPECIALIZING IN COMPLEX TAX STRATEGIES, COMPLIANCE, AND CONSULTING FOR HIGH-NET-WORTH INDIVIDUALS, PARTNERSHIPS, CORPORATIONS, AND FOREIGN ENTITIES. HE HAS HELD ROLES AT ERNST & YOUNG LLP (EY) AND PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (PWC), FOCUSING ON STRATEGIC TAX PLANNING, RISK MANAGEMENT, AND CROSS-BORDER TAX ISSUES.

AT PWC, HE WORKED ON PRIVATE EQUITY, HEDGE FUNDS AND ULTRA HIGH NET WORTH INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS. AT EY, HE WORKED ON ENTERTAINMENT AND LAW FIRMS CLIENTS.

SAMUEL IS A LICENSED IRS ENROLLED AGENT (EA) AND HOLDS AN MBA IN ACCOUNTING AND A CERTIFICATE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP FROM HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL. HE WAS ALSO A BOARD MEMBER OF VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL BOARDS, ADVOCATING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES.



Host of newly launched financial empowerment YouTube channel.

@empowercapital



# JON FORTT

CO-ANCHOR OF CNBC'S "CLOSING BELL: OVERTIME" (M-F, 4PM-5PM). JON CREATED THE WEEKLY SEGMENTS, "ON THE OTHER HAND" ON "SQUAWK BOX," A ONE-MAN DEBATE; AND "WORKING LUNCH" ON "POWER LUNCH," WHICH FEATURES HIS IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS WITH NEWS MAKING CEOS SUCH AS MICROSOFT'S SAYTA NADELLA, AMAZON'S ANDY JASSY, AMD'S LISA SU AND SANOFI'S PAUL HUDSON.

FORTT IS THE CREATOR OF FORTT KNOX, A DIGITAL SHOW HE LAUNCHED IN 2016 THAT FEATURES IN-DEPTH 1:1 INTERVIEWS WITH FOUNDERS, CEOS AND INNOVATORS. IN 2020, HE CREATED THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA: THE COURSE (HTTPS://FORTTMEDIA.COM), AN ONLINE RESOURCE FOR EXPLORING HISTORY AND CULTURE.





# CECILIA ADELABU

A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (CPA). SHE BEGAN HER CAREER IN AUDITS AND TAXATION WITH ONE OF THE LARGEST ACCOUNTING FIRMS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "BIG FOUR." CURRENTLY, CECILIA SERVES AS A LEADER IN IT RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ADVISORY. DESPITE HER BUSY SCHEDULE, SHE MAINTAINS HER TAX AND ACCOUNTING SKILLS BY SELECTIVELY PROVIDING SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS, SMALL BUSINESSES, AND CORPORATIONS.







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20 and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

21 "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

- Matt 22: 20-21



# AGENDA

- Introduction
- Maximize Tax-Advantaged Accounts
- Take Advantage of Tax Credits
- Leverage Deductions
- Reduce Taxable Income
- Adjust Withholding and Estimated Taxes
- Plan Capital Gains Wisely
- Self-Employment Tax Savings
- Keep Records Organized
- Review Tax Treaties (If Applicable)
- Conclusion



# INTRODUCTION

Simple Tax Strategies To Save



# MAXIMIZE TAX-ADVANTAGED ACCOUNTS

### **Retirement Accounts**

- Contribute to tax-deferred accounts like a 401(k) or IRA
- Contributions reduce your taxable income

# **Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)**

- Available with high-deductible health plans
- Contributions are tax-deductible
- Grow tax-free
- Withdrawals for medical expenses are tax-free

### 529 Plans

- Save for education expenses
- Benefit from state-level tax advantages



# HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (HSAS)

# Tax-Deductible Contributions

Contributions to HSAs reduce taxable income

### **Tax-Free Growth**

Funds in HSAs grow without being taxed

# Tax-Free Withdrawals for Medical

# **Expenses**

 Withdrawals used for medical expenses are not taxed





# RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

# **Retirement Accounts**

- Contribute to tax-deferred accounts like a 401(k) or IRA
- Contributions reduce your taxable income

## 529 Plans

- Save for education expenses
- Benefit from state-level tax advantages



# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TAX CREDITS

# Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

- For low- to moderate-income workers
- Can result in a significant refund

### **Child Tax Credit**

Claim up to \$2,000 per child under 17

# **Energy Efficiency Credits**

- Install solar panels to qualify
- Energy-efficient windows also qualify for federal credits

# LEVERAGE DEDUCTIONS

### Standard vs. Itemized Deductions

- Choose whichever is higher
- 2024 standard deduction: \$13,850 (single) or \$27,700 (married filing jointly)

# State and Local Taxes (SALT)

 Deduct up to \$10,000 for property, state income, and sales taxes

# Mortgage Interest and Property Taxes

Claim these as deductions if itemizing

## **Charitable Donations**

Document and deduct cash or in-kind contributions



# STANDARD VS. ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS

### **Standard Deduction**

- Amount for single filers: \$13,850
- Amount for married filing jointly: \$27,700

## **Itemized Deduction**

 Choose whichever is higher between standard and itemized deduction







# STATE AND LOCAL TAXES (SALT)

# State and Local Taxes (SALT)

 Deduct up to \$10,000 for property, state income, and sales taxes

# Mortgage Interest and Property Taxes

• If itemizing, claim these as deductions

## **Charitable Donations**

Document and deduct cash or in-kind contributions



# REDUCE TAXABLE INCOME

# Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs)

- Set aside pre-tax dollars
- Used for medical or dependent care expenses

## Student Loan Interest Deduction

- Deduct up to \$2,500
- Applies to interest payments

# **Educator Expenses**

- Teachers can deduct up to \$300
- For classroom supplies

# ADJUST WITHHOLDING & ESTIMATED TAXES

## **Ensure W-4 Reflects Current Situation**

- Over-withholding results in an interest-free loan to the government
- Under-withholding could lead to penalties



# IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE WITHHOLDING

### **Reflect Current Situation**

Ensure your W-4 form is up-to-date

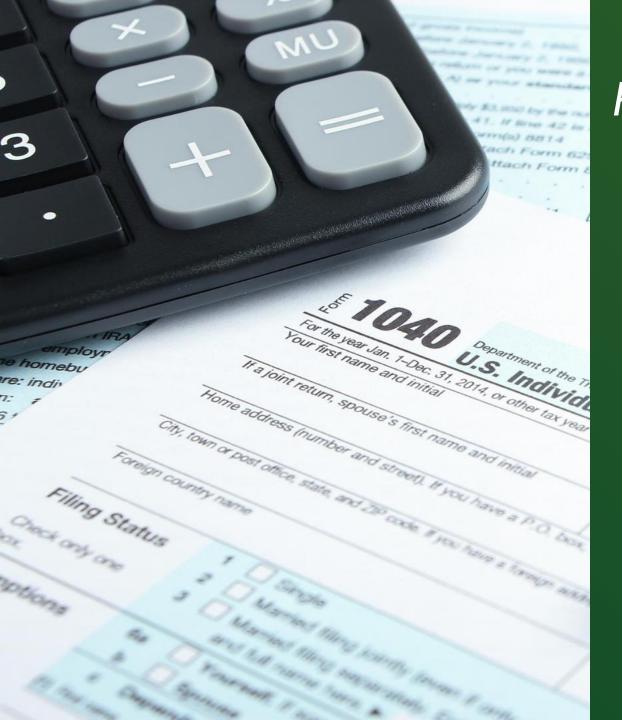
# **Avoid Over-Withholding**

Prevents giving an interest-free loan to the government

# **Avoid Under-Withholding**

Prevents potential penalties





# PLAN CAPITAL GAINS WISELY

# Long-Term Capital Gains

- Lower tax rates of 0%, 15%, or 20%
- Applicable for investments held over a year

# Tax-Loss Harvesting

 Offset gains by selling underperforming assets

# SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAX SAVINGS

# **Deduct Business Expenses**

- Claim costs for home office
- Include equipment expenses
- Travel costs can be deducted
- Internet expenses are eligible

# SEP IRA or Solo 401(k)

- Save for retirement
- Reduce taxable income

# **Mileage Deduction**

- For business-related travel
- Claim \$0.655/mile (2023 rate)



# KEEP RECORDS ORGANIZED

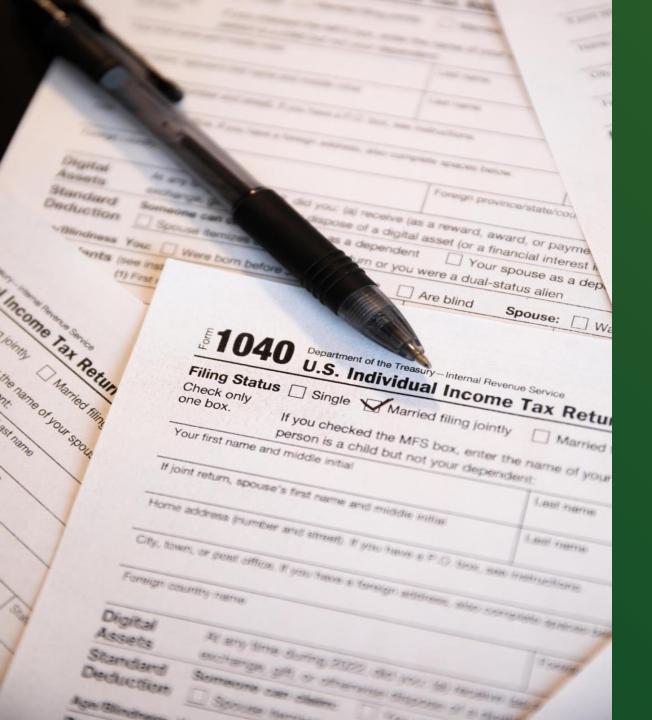
## **Track Financial Documents**

- Receipts
- Statements
- Documentation for deductions and credits

# **Optimize Your Filing**

- Use tax software
- Consult a tax professional





# REVIEW TAX TREATIES (IF APPLICABLE)

### **Income from Abroad**

- Includes earnings from foreign employment
- Dividends from foreign entities like U.S. stocks

# **Treaty Benefits**

- Helps avoid double taxation
- Important for those with foreign income

# CONCLUSIONS



- Choose higher between standard and itemized deductions
  Deduct up to \$10,000 for property, state income, and sales taxes
  Claim mortgage interest and property taxes if itemizing
  Document and deduct charitable donations

Reduce Taxable Income

Adjust Withholding and Estimated Taxes

Plan Capital Gains Wisely

Self-Employment Tax Savings

Keep Records Organized

Review Tax Treaties (If Applicable)

Take Advantage of Tax Credits

