

Bringing in the Glory... Removing the Curse (2/23/25)

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8 (KJV)**

And now, we are commanded to tithe in the same manner. Therefore, we see we have to give of our first-fruits offering, our tithe, in the very same way. Before we see the blessing of God, we must give our tithe in faith.

God gave Jesus in faith....

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30 (KJV)

God established and exercised the principle of First things first! He was the first to give of his TITHE. God did not wait to see if we would first change or repent or make ourselves worthy. He took the first Step! Now the real question is, will you follow His example in obedience to His Word?

⁷ Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, wherein shall we return? ⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹ **Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me,**

even this whole nation. ¹⁰ **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse**, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. **Malachi 3:7-10 (KJV)**

Here is something to think about-- Have you ever wondered how God could justify taking the lives of Egyptian's first-born in the final plague described in Exodus? Here is the answer. It is because the first-born belonged to Him. God had a legal right to take every first-born because every one of them in Egypt and in Israel already belonged to Him!

But the firstborn in Israel didn't die that night, did they? Why not? Because a Lamb was sacrificed to redeem them. A spotless, perfect Lamb took their place!

Remember, God instructed Moses to apply the blood of the sacrificed Lamb to the doorpost of each believer's home.

⁷ And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. **Exodus 12:7 (KJV)**

God redeems us in the very same way, by giving His First-born Son as a sacrifice.

This principle of the first-fruit is very, very powerful. God's word says that any first thing given is never lost, and any first thing not given is always lost. In other words, what we give to God, we don't lose because God redeems it for us. But what we withhold from God, we will lose. **Jesus said...**

²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** ²⁵
For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. Matthew 16:24-25 (KJV)

The first always belongs to God. We find this principle all through God's Word. We should give God the first of our time. We should give Him the first of our Finances. Everything belongs to Him!

It is simply saying... God, I'm going to give You first and trust You to redeem the rest!

It always requires faith to give the first. That's why so few Christians experience the blessing of tithing. It means giving to God before you see if you are going to have enough. By Biblically tithing, it is as if we are saying to God...

"I RECOGNIZE YOU FIRST. AND I AM PUTTING YOU FIRST IN MY LIFE, AND I TRUST YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THE REST OF THE THINGS IN MY LIFE."

THAT'S WHY TITHING IS SO IMPORTANT. IT IS THE ONE OF THE PRIMARY WAYS WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD IS FIRST.

The first portion of everything is the redemptive portion. In other words, when the first portion is given to God, the rest is redeemed. In the same way, coming to Church at the first of the week is a way of giving the Lord the first of our time.

1. Sadly, some people view Monday as the beginning of their week. They think, "I have to get some deals together and get some money in the bank." Thus, they give the first part of their week to money.

2. Other people think their week begins on Friday. They say, "Man, this weekend I'm really going to party and have a good time." Thus, these people give the first-fruits of their time to recreation."

3. As God's people, we need to give the first part of our week to Jesus. The reason the New Testament Church met on Sunday was because they were celebrating the resurrection of the Lord. Thus, they gave the first of their time to God in worship!

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD!

But the first-fruits are given with a promise.

What you sacrifice will cause God to redeem the rest.