

First Fruit Is Holy

Text: Colossians 1:17 *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.* ¹⁸ *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*** ¹⁹ *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.*

Introduction: As we launch into 2023 “Love Conquers All” we recognize that God set in motion the Law of Firsts! In the New Covenant Jesus conquered all and has the Preeminence – to be first in rank or influence! That is His position in all things so we, His Body, directly honor Him first in Love, our day, activity, thought, words, and giving!

Mark 12:28 *And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, **Which is the first commandment of all?*** ²⁹ *And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: ³⁰ And **thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*** ³¹ *And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

- Paul’s warning of taking God’s Word lightly and His Love for you as a given. The Apostle Paul charged the Gentiles to not disrespect the Jews of the First Covenant as Holy.

The first-fruit is Holy as the descendants of Abraham the true olive tree we are grafted in through their unbelief. We must be all the more aware not to be arrogant and prideful. But, be compassionate to win the lost especially the Jews. Read Romans 11!

Romans 11:15 AMP *For if their [present] rejection [of salvation] is for the reconciliation of the world [to God], what will their acceptance [of salvation] be but [nothing less than] life from the dead?*

Romans 11:16, NLT *And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy--just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.*

- **Law of firsts: 1 John 4:19** *We love him, because he first loved us.*
- **Love’s First is an action: John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Giving the first to God sets the pattern for the rest of the year! The first harvested, the first hour, first paycheck of new business endeavor, first of this year belongs to God! Just as in the promised land, the first conquered city, Jericho, belonged to God!

Ezekiel 48:14 *And they shall not sell of it, neither exchange, nor alienate the **firstfruits of the land: for it is holy unto the Lord.***

Joshua 6:18 *And ye, in any wise keep **yourselves** from the accursed thing, lest ye make **yourselves** accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.* ¹⁹ ***But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.***

- Christ the First-Fruits from the dead!

NOW CHRIST IS THE FIRST FRUIT IN RESURRECTION – NOW WE ARE THE FIRST FRUITS OF HIS RESURRECTION!

1 Corinthians 15:19 *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. ²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. ²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. ²⁴ Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

- **God had respect to the first-fruits of Able's sacrifice!**

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good report. ³ Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. ⁴ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

Genesis 4:1 *And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. ² And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. ⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: ⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. ⁶ And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? ⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

Worship God this year with your First-Fruits, then the First 1/10 of gross income, then as your heart is directed, offerings as God!

Proverbs 3:9 *Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

Malachi 3:10 *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. ¹¹ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹² And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.*

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