

The Firstfruits

(09/13/17)

Text: **Luke 12:31**

I. Firstfruits- *noun*

1. The fruit or produce first matured and collected in any season. Of these the Jews made an oblation to God, as an acknowledgment of his sovereign dominion.

2. The first profits of any thing. In the church of England, the profits of every spiritual benefice for the first year.

3. The first or earliest effect of any thing, in a good or bad sense; as the first-fruits of grace in the heart, or the first-fruits of vice.

II. **Ex 22:29**- Do not delay to offer the first ripe fruit

A) **Prov 3:9-10** follows immediately on the heels of **Prov 3:5-6**

1) **Heb 6:6**- Without faith it is impossible to please God

i. **Deut 26:10-11**- The offering of the firstfruits is not only an acknowledging that God provides all things, but it is an operation of faith in the fact that He will continue to do so

a) **Psa 24:1**- The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof

b) **Psa 50:10**- Every beast belongs to God

c) **Hag 2:8**- The silver and the gold are God's

ii. **James 1:17**- Every good gift is from God

a) **Eph 2:8-9**- Faith is a gift

b) **1 Cor 4:7**- What do we have that wasn't given us?

B) **Ex 23:15-19**- God requires the firstfruits

1) Do not boil a kid in mother's milk

i. This is said 3 times, each at the end of the giving of the law

a) **Ex 23:19, Ex 34:26, Deut 14:21**

1. Don't make the thing meant for our sustenance into a thing of destruction

2. The Jews turned this into more ritual, and if any meat was stuck between teeth and a man ate milk products, they cursed him

3. The rabbis claimed that the pagans performed a ritual in the fall in-gathering in which they boiled a calf in it's mother's milk and then sprinkled it on the fields for a blessed crop

2) **Jer 2:3**- Israel was God's firstfruits of the nations, and the nation that ate them up was cursed

- i. **Isa 28:4**- Israel compared to the eating of the “hasty fruit” (first ripe- **Jer 24:2**)
 - a) **Hos 9:10, Nah 3:12**
 - ii. **Prov 20:25**- Curse on the man which devours that which is holy (sanctified or set apart for the Lord) (**Example of David when he poured out the water**)
 - a) God gives to every man the ovum of faith, and it is that very gift which will curse the unbeliever
 - b) The firstfruits were sanctified or set apart as belonging to God, and Israel was also set apart as His, thus they are called His firstfruits
 - 1. **Ex 4:22**- Israel is My firstborn son
 - 1. **Ex 13:2**- All the firstborn are sanctified and belong to the Lord
 - iii. **Ezek 44:30**- Give the firstfruits and the blessings will come on the house
 - a) **2 Kings 4:42-44**- Firstfruits given to God and then the blessings flow through that house
 - b) **2 Chr 31:6-7**- They began to heap the firstfruits to the Lord in the 3rd month and it was finished in the 7th month
 - 1. Now herein is the beautiful picture of the church from the 1st coming of Christ until the 2nd coming, it lies between Firstfruits and Trumpets, or between barley and in-gathering
 - 1. **Deut 16:16**- Three times in a year (3 harvests of crops)
 - (a) Passover- Redemption
 - (b) Pentecost- Offering } salvation, supply, glory
 - (c) Tabernacles- Glory
 - (1) This same pattern was seen in Israel’s history: they were redeemed at Passover from bondage, then given the Covenant at Pentecost, and the promise of God to be a supply and blessing became a curse, when they would not believe God and enter the land (**Num 13:20**), they wandered 40 years, and will yet receive the promises at Tabernacles
- C) **James 1:18**- A kind of firstfruits of His creatures
- 1) **Rom 8:18-24**- We have the firstfruits of the Spirit
 - i. The entire premise of “firstfruits” is an exercise in faith. Acknowledging God has supplied and believing His word that He will supply, firstfruits is a picture of faith, which pleases God.
 - a) And thus the church lies continually in the position of the firstfruit offering at Pentecost, tainted with leaven, and yet still accepted by God
 - b) The period of time from the firstfruit till the ingathering is a time of hope and expectation, and the expectation must be based on faith, as the crop is not yet harvested. This is the picture of the church and the gift of faith
 - c) God gives the faith and we are to offer the firstfruits to Him, and no other

1. **Matt 13:12**- To him that hath shall be given, and he shall have more abundance
 2. **Matt 25:14-30**- Parable of Man delivery His goods to His servants and then going to far country
 1. **2 Cor 8:5**- They first gave themselves to the Lord
 2. **Rom 12:1-3**- Present ourselves a living sacrifice
 - (a) We have been brought out of the land of bondage (sin) and into the land flowing with milk and honey (God's supply of grace) and are awaiting the day when the trumpet shall blow and we shall be like Him
- D) **Rom 11:16**- The elect of Israel are firstfruits, as God promised Abraham that "in thy Seed shall all nations be blessed." The first saved into the church were Jews, or firstfruits of Israel
- 1) **Rom 16:5**- Firstfruits of Achaia
 - 2) **1 Cor 16:15**- " " "