Giving God Our First Fruits

Tony Mauck · Deuteronomy 26

INTRODUCTION

- You can't read the New Testament without realizing how significant a day like today is.
- Why is this particular day chosen to begin the new covenant? Because it is a harvest. It is the day of first fruits.
- God is still in the business of wanting our first fruits.

1 Giving to God the First and the Best

Deuteronomy 26

- This is you and me offering our first fruits to God. This is the beginning of our week.
- Every first day of the week belongs to Him. He gets the first fruits.
- It is not about some duty or obligation.
- God has given you the land, and he deserves the fruits of it as a result. Give in your first, give in your best.
- And that's what the first day of the week is to us. Giving to God the first and the best.

2 Pentecost Was a Celebration of God's Blessing

Deuteronomy 26

- The point of Pentecost was a celebration of God's blessing.
- What was going on that great first day was the greatest blessing God had ever given. The gift of the Holy Spirit.
- I do know that ultimately everything is going to end at the throne of God.
- It's not just about bringing God our first fruits, it's about sharing in God's blessing with others who have received this marvelous blessing.
- If we find ourselves putting in our time, drudgery, obligation, duty, can't wait till it's over. If we find ourselves there, we need to reassess what this is.

3 God Deserves a Joyful Free Will Offering

1 Timothy 2:1–2

- Here's the point of the lesson. God deserves a joyful free will offer.
- He's given us the long promised gift of salvation to Jew and Gentile to those who would be redeemed by the blood of Christ.
- God ought to provoke a joyful offering and a free will offering.

4 Don’t Judge Where You’re Planted

Romans 9; 1 Corinthians 7

- Who are we to complain back to God about the way it is? I didn’t plant myself, and you didn’t plant yourself.
- It is by his doing that we are in Christ. Don’t judge where you’re planted.
- Regardless of your circumstances, it’s not such that you’re prevented from serving God and giving him your first fruits.
- That’s where you’re planted. You can serve the Lord. You can render your first fruits to him.
- Knowing that God is working in our lives, even though we do not see him, that we have a reward that will be worth it all.

5 Work Toward Maximum Fruit Production

2 Peter 1:5–8; Psalm 1:1–3

- That we should desire, that we should work toward maximum fruit production.
- Add to your faith moral excellence and knowledge and self-control and godliness and brotherly kindness and love.
- If these qualities are yours and are increasing, you’re neither fruitless or useless in the true knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Be like a tree planted by rivers of water that yield its fruit in its season, and whatever it does, it prospers.
- Can you grow in your understanding of the Word of God? Get to a deeper place than you are now.

THE CHALLENGE

When that day comes, whenever it may be, will you be immortally arrayed with the living Savior Jesus Christ? Are you preparing your life? Are you aiming your life at that last great day?

MY NOTES