

THE SUPREME CLAIMS OF GOD UPON HIS SAINTS

TEXT: *Numbers 18:12: All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.*

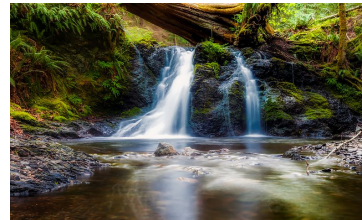
God claims that the first and the best of man's possessions shall be devoted to HIM. The firstlings of the flock, not the lastlings.

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning, God created the Heaven and the earth.

He who possesses the earth gave Canaan to Israel. God still rules among the nations, and:

Psalms 33:12a: Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;

All the dewdrops, rain, sunshine, earth, flowers, fruit, ocean breezes, and flowing rivers are the blessings of God. He lets us share them.



Our own bodies belong to God, for He made them. He made us for Himself.

The first law that went forth from Mt. Sinai calling for a national assembly once a year was known as the FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS. They were to assemble with a sheaf of first fruits in a basket. This was a Wave Offering of loving obedience given before the Lord in the Temple. This was a time of national Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrim Fathers had a scriptural foundation for their proclamation of a national Thanksgiving Day. I fear for our nation lest she forget God. The Psalmist said:

Psalms 9:17: The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Where are the nations that have left God out? Greece? Babylon? Rome? Turkey? Germany? Spain?

Israel forgot God, and He delivered them into the hands of their enemies.

Proverbs 14:34: Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to a people.

We Americans owe our birthright to the Godly faith and lives of our forefathers. They owe all to God Who gave this wonderful Gospel, and the lively oracles of God. We are but stewards of God. He did not create us to be isolated from one another, nor from Himself. The sin of selfishness has done more to ruin civilization than any other sin. It is the cause of wars, hatred, stealing, drunkenness, and adultery.

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Romans 14:7: For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

The Supreme Claims of God upon the Church:

Matthew 16:18b: . . . upon this rock I will build My Church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

The church was born through the love of God in giving His only Son for our sins.

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.

The Supreme Claims of God upon the Home

We often see this beautiful motto hanging on the walls of Christian Homes: "*Christ is the head of this house; the unseen guest at every meal; the silent listener to every conversation*".



But does He actually rule in the affairs of the home? Is there a blessing asked at the table? Are there family prayers and a family altar? The future of the nation is in the homes of the saints. If your home does not influence children, then the church and Sunday school teacher or preacher do not stand much of a chance to help and are almost defeated.



The Supreme Claims of God upon Our Possessions

He is to receive all the best of the oil, all the best of the vine, all the best of the wheat, all the best of the land — *the first fruits of them all shall ye offer unto the Lord.*

Are you robbing God?

Malachi 3:8-10:

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.



Jesus brings everything into competition with the claims of His Love. “*Lovest thou Me more than . . . your occupation, worldly amusements, friends, society, children, houses, lands, money?*”

One seventh of our time belongs to God, as does one tenth of our income. Our talents also are His to be used for His Glory. God does not reward talents, but He rewards our faithfulness in using them for His Glory. Some men do more with one talent than another with ten.

Matthew 25:21: Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Proverbs 10:4: He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

The Supreme Claim of God upon each Individual

- **The patriarch Job recognized the Supreme Claims of God upon him when he refused to eat his food alone, but shared with the poor and unfortunate.**
- **Abraham recognized the claims of God when he gave tithes of all to Melchizedek.**
- **Jacob recognized the claims of God when he gave his vow by consecrating 1/10th to God.**
- **The Shunamite woman recognized the claims of God on her when she baked a little cake first for God’s prophet, and was richly rewarded for her sacrifice.**

- **Moses recognized the Supreme Claims of God when he made the consecration of his whole life, unreservedly, to God, for time and eternity.**
- **Paul recognized the claims of God upon his life when he cried out: “*I am debtor to all men*”.**

If we give our all, our best, and our first fruits to the Lord, there will be no trouble about the church being able to meet its needs. Selfishness had withheld some of us from giving our tithes, talents, and time to the work of God. Some loved themselves best and even — without fear — tried to hinder others from giving their best to the Master.

Jeremiah 5:25: Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.

Amos 4:7: And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.

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