



"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps 119:130).

The Lighthouse BULLETIN

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**2015:
The Year of
Fruitbearing**

John 15:16
"...I have chosen you, and ordained you...go and bring forth fruit..."

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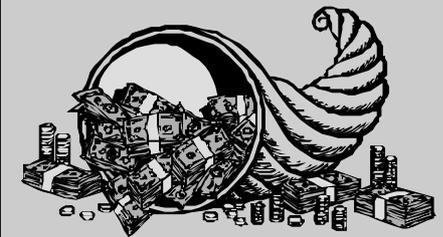
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LIGHTHOUSE BBC OFFERS THANKSGIVING TO GOD THROUGH FIRSTFRUITS NEXT SUNDAY

"...this is expedient for you, who have begun before...perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have..." 2 Cor 8:10b-11).

A Word from the PASTOR



"Honour the Lord with thy substance [possessions], and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Prov 3:9-10).

We have come to just a week away from the giving of our thanksgiving offerings to God through Firstfruits. Many of us have done some preparations for this God-honoring activity. As we therefore have made some preparations, let us come together next week as God's people, as an Ekklesia of the Lord Jesus, to finally make the performance of actually giving this offering.

The Apostle Paul refers to the actual performance of giving as an "expedient" thing, meaning, something better, good and profitable. He practically says the actual giving of something committed is a "profitable" performance. Indeed it is! Come then on Sunday, ready in heart and mind give our Firstfruits!



Hundreds of residents from Tatalon and nearby barangays wait for their turn to receive medical attention in yesterday's Medical Mission.

Third Quarter Focus : Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

"...walk worthy of the Lord...being fruitful in every good work..." (Col 1:10).

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)

TITLE : WHAT FIRSTFRUITS IS

Text/s : Prov 3:9-10, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Deut 26:2-4, "That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name there. And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the Lord thy God, that I am come unto the country which the Lord sware unto our fathers for to give us. And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the Lord thy God."

INTRODUCTION

The giving of Firstfruits as the thanksgiving of God's people reveals a lot in the heart and mind of the participant. Here are some of them:

A) Firstfruits is an act of faith that pleases God

Rom 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Heb 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him..."

When we act according to God's Word, we manifest faith. And when faith is manifested, God is pleased; and when He is pleased He rewards.

B) Firstfruits is a manifestation of our love for God

John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me..."

The Bible declares that our love for God is shown by how His commandments are in us and are kept by us. And since Firstfruits is, in fact, a command, our observance of it is a manifestation of love for God.

C) Firstfruits is a demonstration of how we put God first in our lives

Matt 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Inherent in the teaching of Firstfruits is the principle of putting God first. And we all know how God responds when we put Him first in everything.

D) Firstfruits is a sacrifice of thanksgiving

Deut 26:11, "And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you."

Deuteronomy 26 shows us that firstfruits is a sacrifice of thanksgiving. Ps 107:22, "And let them

sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing."

Neh 12:43, "Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy

Phil 4:18-19, "But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God...my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

E) Firstfruits is honoring God

Prov 3:9-10, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase..."

1 Sam 2:30b, "...for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

Firstfruits is one specific way by which God wants us to honor Him. And when we do honor Him with such offering, He honors us in return!

Let us then come together as a church next Sunday and give our Firstfruits to God!



Top picture, the LD4 members do a choral recitation about Faith. Middle, Brad White sings with the choir the song, The Song of the Soul Set Free. Lower photo, people fill the auditorium during the Medical Mission yesterday. A total of 2,079 patients were attended to and 619 professed Christ.

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)