

GIVING ...Reorients Our Sense of Greatness!

Heb 6:19 – 7:10

November 26, 2023

LAST WEEK:

The Disorienting Impact of Ingratitude

Rom 1:18-23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

...There is something intrinsically helpful and reorienting about "Giving Thanks"! ...It is an exercise that contains "Contemplation" (reflection, awareness, intentionality, consideration, inventory, valuing) and "Celebration" (acknowledgment, appreciation, applause, affection, delight, expression).

...Last Week we focused on "Contemplation" (a Gratitude Inventory—"THANKS") ...This Week on "Celebration" ...the Expression of Contemplation—"GIVING"

Hebrews 6:19 - 7:10 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³ He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

⁴ See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵ And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. ⁶ But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸ In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹ One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

...This Passage WANTS Something for us!—It wants us to have HOPE that is like a Sure and Steadfast Anchor of the Soul!

...He "creates the WEIGHT" of this feeling of hope in our souls by filling in some needed details:

- "CONSIDER JESUS" ...His Deeply Respected Resume that is Superior to Anything Else We Could Look to!!
v.4 ...The GOAL of this argument is to get them to See, Acknowledge, & Be Affected by This GREATNESS!!

...TITHING (mentioned 7 times ...v. 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9)

This Section of Hebrews is Seeking to Get the Hebrews to RECOGNIZE and BENEFIT from the Greatness of Jesus (who is the 'sure and steadfast anchor of the soul'!!) ...it Does So by Recounting the Time when Abraham Recognized the Greatness of Melchizedek—and NOTE—What did Abraham do in RECOGNITION of the Priest of GOD MOST HIGH? ...He Gave a Tithe of All!!

...Why would he do that? ...Because the Giving of a Tithe is an EXPRESSION of Recognition that EVERYTHING Comes from HIM!!

Acts 17:24-25 *The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*

Isaiah 66:1-2 *Thus says the LORD:*

*“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is the place of my rest?*

*² All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things came to be,
declares the LORD.*

*But this is the one to whom I will look:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit
and trembles at my word.*

Revelation 4:11 *“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”*

...This is what Paul refers to in Rom 1 (**“Honoring & Thanking” in response to Creation**) ...It is the Humble Awareness that All This Exists by the WORD of God’s Will!! ...I Have Need of Meaningfully Recognizing that I am a CREATURE and that God is the CREATOR—The SOURCE!

—My Soul NEEDS to be Reminded that I am NOT the OWNER!!

Heb 7:1-4 *For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. ...⁴ See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!*

Gen 14:17-20 *After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹*

And he blessed him and said,

*“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;*

*²⁰ and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”*

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

...Abraham is Recognizing that the Provision in His Life COMES FROM GOD!! ...He’s Not alone in this practice

Gen 28:20-22 *Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”*

Lev 27:30 *“Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD.*

Malachi 3:7-11 *From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions.⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.¹¹ I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.*