

# “The Principle of First”

For where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21 NLT

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. **Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.**

The Principle of **First**

Exodus 13:1-2 NIV

The LORD said to Moses, “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

Exodus 13:12-13 NLT

...you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

The First Born Must Be **Sacrificed** or **Redeemed**

Clean or **Unclean**

Was Mankind born spiritually clean or unclean?

**UNCLEAN**

Was Jesus born spiritually clean or unclean?

**CLEAN**

Matthew 23:23 NLT

...you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. **You should tithe**, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

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Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ’s Church of Marion County

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## The **First** Fruits Must Be Offered

Exodus 23:19 NLT

As you harvest your crops, **bring** the very best of the first harvest to the house of the LORD your God.

**Bring** the tithe, you can't **give** what doesn't belong to you.

**Bring** all the **silver** and **gold** from Jericho (the first city in the promised land) **into the house of the Lord.**

Genesis 4:3-5 NLT

When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented **some** of his crops as a gift to the LORD. Abel also brought a gift—**the best portions of the firstborn** lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift.

## The **Tithe** Must Be First

Leviticus 27:30 NLT

“**One-tenth** of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, **belongs to the LORD** and must be set apart to him as holy.”

Key: the tithe is the **first** to leave your hand.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 NLT

You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. **On the first day of each week**, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned.

Exodus 13:14-15 NLT

“And in the future, your children will ask you, ‘What does all this mean?’ Then you will tell them, ‘With the power of his mighty hand, the LORD brought us out of Egypt, the place of our slavery. Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, so the LORD killed all the firstborn males throughout the land of Egypt, both people and animals. That is why I now sacrifice all the firstborn males to the LORD—except that the firstborn sons are always bought back.’”

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