

**KEY:** “One’s” a **farmer**; “One’s” a **rancher**. The “Rancher” – Abel **brings** the **firstborn**. The “Farmer” – Cain **didn’t** bring the **firstborn**.

**KEY:** God cannot in anyway accept **second** Best. Note that was **2,500** years before the Law.

### C. THE TITHE MUST BE **BROUGHT** FIRST.

**II Chronicles 31: 5** “As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel **brought in** abundance the firstfruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they **brought in** abundantly the tithe of everything. **Malachi 3:10** “**Bring all** the tithes into the **storehouse**.”

**KEY:** The Bible never uses “the” word **give** when it talks about tithing. It only uses “the” word **bring**. **WHY??** Because you can’t give what is not **yours**.

**KEY:** The Bible says to **bring** the tithe to the “storehouse or household of God” and it never makes reference to:

Other: **ministries, Christian schools or other causes**.

**KEY:** the Bible says **bring “it”** - tithe to the House of God and if you designate “it” your **stealing** from God.

**KEY:** Bringing the tithe to the House of God is what brings the **blessing**.

The **first** portion of your income has “the” **blessing** on it, and has the power to **redeem** the other income in your hand.

**I Corinthians 16: 1 – 2** “Now concerning the **collection for the saints**, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the **first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, **storing up as he may prosper**, that there be no collections when I come.

**Exodus 13: 14 – 15** “So it shall be, when your sons ask you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ that you shall say to him, By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the **house of bondage**. ‘And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore **I sacrifice to the Lord** all males that open the womb, but all the **firstborn** of my sons **I redeem**.”

### **Conclusion:**

**Who** is really first in your life? **Who** do you honor with the “firstfruits” of your increase? **Who** do you worship?

### **Who’s On first?**

## **First Church of God**

**February 24, 2013**

### **Sermon Outline**

**Pastor, Robert G. White**

### **Message Title: “Who’s on First?”**

Exodus 2: 12 – 15

### **Introduction:**

**Tithing** will change every area of your life ... marriage, health, finances and relationships.

Tithing is all about the Heart! Matthew 6:21 Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

### **Who’s On First?**

#### **Who on first in your **life**?**

Every time you get paid you get an opportunity to **worship** “someone” with the **first**-fruits of your increase.

#### **Exodus 13: 2, 12 – 13**

<sup>2</sup> “**Consecrate** to Me all the first born, whatever open the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; **it is Mine**.<sup>12</sup> That you shall **set apart to the Lord** all that open the womb, that is, every first born that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the Lord’s.<sup>13</sup> But every firstborn of a

donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if **you will not redeem** it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.”

#### A. THE FIRSTBORN MUST BE Sacrificed or REDEEMED

**KEY:** If the first animal was **clean** you had to **sacrifice it.**

If the animal was **unclean** you had to Redeem it or (buy it back) with a clean animal.

**Tithing** goes back to the Garden of Eden. **Genesis 32: 16 – 17 (paraphrased) God said ...** “You can love every tree except that **“one”** ... that **“one”** is mine.”

**KEY:** Tithing was a **test** from the very beginning with Adam and Eve.

**KEY:** God says to us: “You can have ‘it’ all except the **first 10 percent.**”

**Questions:**

Were you born clean or unclean?

Was Jesus born clean or unclean?

**KEY:** Jesus was born **clean as a sacrifice** ... so that the **“unclean” (you and I)** could be **Redeemed!**

**KEY:** **Jesus** is God’s Tithe!

**Tithing is personal** with God, and we give **“it”** in **faith.** Giving the tithe first – is what brings the **blessing.**

God gave Jesus **first,** while “we were yet **sinners.**”

**KEY:** God gave Jesus in **faith,** believing for a return. **Jesus** is called the first fruits – first born.

**KEY:** God said ... If you give me the **first** one ... the **“rest”** are Redeemed and Blessed.

**Question:** Would you rather go through life with 100% of your money **cursed,** or 90% of your money **blessed?**

#### Issue of the Heart

Are you willing and trusting God enough to give the **first** part of your income to God, and let Him **bless** the rest?

**KEY:** With God ...

Any **“first”** thing given is **never** lost.

Any **“first”** thing not given is **always** lost.

**B. The “First Fruits” Must Be Offered.**

**Exodus: 23: 19 a** “The first of the **first fruits** of your land you shall **bring into the house of the Lord your God.**”

**Proverbs 3: 9 – 10** “Honor the Lord with your possessions. And with the **first fruits** of all your **increase;** So **your barns will be filled** with plenty, and **your vats will overflow** with new wine.”

**Question:**

**Why did God tell** the Children of Israel to **bring** all the silver and gold from Jericho **to the** House of God? Because ... “It” – Jericho was the **first** city in the Promise land.

**KEY:** **God was saying that** if you’ll give Me the **first** one (city) the rest will be **Redeemed** and **Blessed!** It took **faith** to give all the silver and gold from the **“first city.”**

**Joshua 6: 19** “But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron are **consecrated to the Lord;** they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.”

**KEY:** When you get paid it is **consecrated** to God, and if you **don’t bring “it”** to the house of God ... it’s **cursed.**

#### Cain and Abel’s Offering

The reason God accepted Abel’s offering and didn’t accept Cain’s offering: **Genesis 4: 3 – 5**  
<sup>3</sup>“And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. <sup>4</sup>Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering. <sup>5</sup>But He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry and his countenance fell.