

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

So, last week, we noticed the Great emphasis that the scripture placed and the collection for the construction of the tabernacle On the work that the lord had done in the hearts of the people and how surprising this was, because of the specific people in whose hearts, he had to He had done that work and him and his heart's, he had chosen to do that work.

And so The wonderful contrast between The. Anxiety, and grumbling and materialism. That was from on display from their flesh. And then the Uh, cheerfulness of Uh, willing hearts to give generously and abundantly. That the lord gave over against. Their flesh. And that you know, how much more this is?

When it's not just for a church full of Reprobate people, which we can say sadly with psalm 95 and hebrews, three and four. Not that they all were over last one. But Uh, generally speaking. If this is the case with such a church, As that a church in that condition.

Uh, then how much more All we expect. In the age of the pouring, out of the spirit, in the age of the gathering, in of the elect, Um, The multitudes of the elect. How much more should we expect that one of the Uh, symptoms indicators. Displays of the lord's.

Uh, presence in and power to save his church. Uh, will be this contentedness with what he gives us. Desire to employ it. For his service. Generosity. That comes from confidence that he is supplying all our needs. And we are therefore liberated to Uh, to give in the wonderful old sense of that word liberally.

Freely. As those who have been freed by God, to have free hearts and free minds and free hands. And contributing. To his work, his worship. And take care of others. Uh, so we're going to skip forward a little bit really. Uh, not too far because although we're in numbers chapter 7, it's really following up on where we were in the timeline of israel.

Now it came to pass when Moses had finished setting up the tabernacle that he anointed it and consecrated it and all its furnishings and the alter and all its utensils. So he anointed them and consecrated them. Then the leaders of israel. The heads of their father's houses who were the leaders of the tribes and over those who are numbered, Made an offering.

Now, did you catch once the tabernacle is set up? The. Uh, there is need now for maintaining not just the function of the tabernacle itself but the men whom the lord is going to set apart for the service of the tabernacle, particularly the priests and the Levites. If their work is going to be.

To facilitate and lead. The. The public worship of god, then they need to have some way to be taken care of them and their households. Uh, we see that in verse Uh we'll skip down. We'll just read. We won't skip three i guess just one verse. They brought their offering before y'all play six, covered, carts and 12 box in the cart for every few liters and for each one in ox and they presented them before the tabernacle, then y'all always spoke to Moses saying Except these from them that they may be used in doing.

The work of the tabernacle meeting and You shall give them to the Levites. To every man. According to his service. Uh, so there is a provision for the ongoing work of the tabernacle, which we'll see is especially in, Uh, chapter 7 here of numbers. And then there is a provision for the workers themselves and we'll move forward to chapter 18.

Of numbers to see that, but there is this for the worship of god to be maintained on earth. And the presence of the god, who speaks to his people, especially in and through the worship of god. Because god, you know, what do we spend most of our public worship service doing children?

Uh, you know, this don't you. It's something that as you grow both in physical and spiritual maturity, uh, you enjoy the increasing capacity to attend upon god in the preaching to offer your hearing to him as a active worship to offer. The way you hear and the response of your heart and receiving it as the word, and all of those things, the god has designed that has worship would be full also of his word, which means he's doing.

What else? He's not. Just magnifying himself, he's growing. His people, isn't he through that word? He, we pray is, if you are not a believer, yet bringing you to faith through the faith that comes by the hearing of the word preached, and all of us. Who are believers. We know that the lord sanctifies us by his truth, His word is truth and So, for the worship and the word work, Of the lord.

He has made it necessary that there would be this ongoing given and you see the, the mutual reinforcement, then the work of the lord produces giving, which he is pleased, then to increase. His worship and to maintain his worship, to continue his worship, and to increase and continue and maintain his work.

Uh, but listen again, to verse two, And see if you pick up an emphasis and i'll try with my with my voice. I know sometimes. I don't remember to read his expressively as would be helpful to you and i hope you'll forgive me for that. But i will try to help you and see if just by the repetition, not even by.

What i do with my voice, you can see the emphasis Then the leaders of israel. The heads. Of their fathers houses. Who were leaders of the tribes and over those who are numbered, Made an offering. Did you catch that? Did you catch the emphasis on leadership? And Authority. And headship.

And even households, which if you've been following along as we're in first Timothy 3, the last several weeks on On the deaconate and will be Finishing that up. That section of first Timothy 3 in the reading. All right. Next next hour. Uh, lord willing. Uh that the household is very important and then we get into what ends up being One of the longest chapters.

Uh, in the old testament, god forgive us for our fleshliness. But if you've, if you've ever been a chapter or a day guy, And you're you're reading your chapter a day and you get to number seven and you see that you got to flip the page. To finish and then you flip it again, you think?

Oh no. I'm gonna have to spend nine minutes reading this chapter instead of five. Uh, and god have mercy on us for the way we respond. To him and his word that way. Did you know why the chapter is so long? Because everyone of these 12 tribes is going to have a specifically leader from a specific family, who's going to bring an offering.

And not only is all of israel seeing this repeated 12 times by the leaders of the father's houses. But everyone in israel has a particular house that is leading their tribe and a particular father

over that house. And they are, they are being led in their giving, their view of material things and the need necessity and usefulness of it.

None of these leaders personally raised all of Well, all of these bowls and rams and lambs and goats and Uh didn't personally come up with the productivity that produced the wealth to buy all the silver and gold. Certainly, we hope that they were responsible and diligent economical people that they would be good leaders.

Uh, but their family their tribe were all involved, weren't they? In the productivity that led to the ability to give this. And so the idea that there is this male headship. Uh, the that is associated with it that the lord has instituted for the leadership of all of his people.

For uh, working hard, not stealing, but working hard with our own hands, so that we may be able to have Have something to give to others when the lord providentially. Assigns it in their time of need. That doesn't start an act six. I mean, it's obvious in x6 for those who aren't trying.

To to read, you know, post first, wave feminism into their presbyterian polity. When he uses when When the apostles by the spirit use, The, the very masculine specific word for man. About the the ones whom they should be looking for deacons. Uh, and we know. That is impossible for a woman to be a man of one woman.

Or at least we in this room know now. Now, that we live in a In a nation that has so rebelled against god that we have lost our minds. And think that a woman can be a man of one woman. And yet that kind of monkeying around with the scripture has been has been taking place.

With the deaconate. For about 150 years and some branches of the, of the presbyterian churches. And for 50 years in the arp. And pray for the airpee. We still have that study. That's Before the senate and If? If man can mean woman, Then you still have a doctrine of scripture problem, don't you?

Um, but also had chip Of the household is is training for And a continued out working of the leadership of a deacon. And so, We, we have these leaders of israel, heads of father's houses, leaders of the tribes who are Who are overseeing and And, Coordinating and giving the example.

To each of their tribes. And you know, we have them named by name here and if you were you know in the ninth or 10th tribe to present, And you're a kid. And, you know things are, you know, this is all very new and different. But, yeah, this is what's what's happening?

You're probably doing things like Asking your dad or your mom, you know, wins our tribes day going to be, you know who's uh who's presenting ours and you're excited when it's your tribes day, to present the offering. And You know, trying to squeeze through the crowd and And you know, maybe get a get up on your older brothers or sisters shoulders so that you can see the the bowl and the ram and the goat and That came, maybe you even, you know, had gotten to feed one of those particular.

Animals, that that is being offered, and you have your particular Sense of the lord having blessed you with, with a part in that. Um, Leadership. Over the church. Doesn't take away from everyone else's service. It's God's way of organizing and facilitating. Um, That service and an administrative and And earthly capacity and you notice.

When all of this is done. Yeah, we get to the, you know, the the 12th day with the 12th, tribes offering ends. In. Verse 83. And then there's a summary of the total amount that was given, this was the dedication offering verse 84. For the altar from the leaders of israel.

When it was anointed and it lists all the stuff. Um, That was given and then verse 89, Now, when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with him and him there, of course is Yahweh He heard the voice of one speaking to him. From above the mercy seat.

That was on the ark of testimony. From between the two cherubim. Plus, he spoke. To them. Is a reminder, isn't it? That Um, You have to, to put it. And maybe. Hopefully not crass, but at least Of pithy terms. You can't out. Give God. I mean, there's that big list of all that the tribes had given Uh, collected, you know, collectively in verses 84 to 88.

And what did they get in? In exchange. They got God. As their profit, the ark of the testimony they got God. As their priest, the one who covers the ark of his testimony, with the mercy, covering the the atonement, covering the mercy seat. And the blood. Of the sacrifice which was applied every year because it was looking forward to the blood of Jesus.

They got God as their king, who sits and throned above the cherubim, and they got his active ministry through those whom he has appointed. In this case, Uh, namely Moses. And so you have these, these earthly prophets and priests and kings who are mere men under God and they're all looking forward to him.

The prophet who is greater than Moses. The great high priest, whose ministry is going to be forever, not from the tribe of Levi, but the the tribe of Judah according to the order milk. The forever king from the line of David, but not just the son of David according to the flesh, but the son of God with power, From everlasting who has that eternal?

Today, I have begotten, you displayed on the day of the resurrection from the dead. And you have under God in the old testament, these mere men who are prophets priests and kings, and then under Jesus, and the new testament, who is our great prophet, our great high priest and our forever king, we still have officers in the church, But it's God himself.

Who is ministering to us his word. His atonement. His rule. And he has ordained, not only that, there would be leadership under him who whom he is appointed and set apart. To. To direct us in that to help us in that, but that it would be necessary that material things be provided.

Both for the worship and the work and for those whom the Lord uses. Uh, To lead that worship. Uh, that worshiping and that working. And for that, we're going to Uh, move forward to numbers 18. Maybe we should have started in number 16 and 17. You know, it's not surprising that the attempt to Bring authority down and level.

Uh, even the logistical or administrative. Uh, structure that the Lord has given to the family and to the church and to the society It's not surprising that we have that because authority and all all three spheres is from the Lord. And so our sinful hearts Naturally resistant tend towards what's called egalitarianism.

And we had a great display of it and great meaning, large not excellent. I guess it's As far as examples go, it's a excellent firm. That's usefulness as an example. Of this egalitarianism and chapters. Uh, 16 and 17. Maybe back to yeah, chapter 16 and 17. You have those at the beginning of chapter 16 who don't like that, God has chosen specific people.

Uh, to to lead and particularly, to lead worship, and to be priests. And It ends with. Those who think that it shouldn't be. Moses and Aaron and Aaron's family. They end up. Uh, swallowed up and incinerated. Uh, by fire that comes from the Lord. And the nation of Israel, instead of being humbled at first, They, uh, just turned back to chapter.

It's easier with the, with the text in front of you. I'm sure they in chapter 16 verse 41, On the next day all the children of israel complain against Moses. And Aaron saying you have killed the people of yahweh. Well, no verse 35. The fire has come down from yahweh.

And consumed the 250 men. So yeah, just because people can speak theology ease or theology-ish. Uh, it doesn't mean. That what they're saying has. Um, Has truth or substance to it. You have killed the people of yawing out and it happened with the congregation gathered against Moses and Aaron.

Now it's not just some in rebellion. But the whole And now, Um, The the lord appears and he says get away from this congregation. That i may consume them in a moment. And they fell on their faces, but moses and Aaron have have what? Have been ordained by god to do, what they've been ordained by god.

As priests as mediators intercessors, this isn't This isn't the first time this has happened with moses. You remember when Aaron was at the bottom of the mountain leading the Redemption festival. You know, these are uh, your gods of Israel. Uh, who brought you out of the house of egypt?

Tomorrow will be a feast to yahweh. And so, Aaron is leading a man-made redemption festival at the bottom of the mountain and Moses's. Um, Moses is told by god that god is about to destroy Israel. Isn't it? And he intercedes. Um, He intercedes on the people's behalf and the Lord will ends, so they do it again.

Moses says to Aaron take a sensor, put fire in it, from the altar, put incense on it. Take it quickly to the congregation and make a tournament for them. For wrath is going out from y'all way. The plague has begun Aaron took it as much as commanded and ran into the midst of the assembly already, the plague had become begun among the people.

Uh, 14 thousand seven hundred. Of them. Of them die and Then the lord. A miraculously makes Aaron's rod bud. Over against the, the rods from the, the other people's houses and Um, In chapter 17. And, Um, And the children of israel. Uh, Realize what they have done the holiness of god.

And they say, and Uh they say in verse 12, they speak to Moses saying surely we die, we perish, we all perish. Whoever even comes near the tabernacle of Yahweh must die. So we all utterly die. A little bit of a sense of the danger of being close to the lord and of the responsibility of being in leadership.

Among his people will cure a lot of the desire to open church, office to people who jesus hasn't called. Okay. This is part of how the new testament does it too. Let not many of you desire to be teachers, why? Because of the double judgment. Uh, that comes upon teachers, it's It's a very serious thing.

Um, But the lord makes renewed display. Of of Aaron. And And his family. As those who are going to minister the atonement that the lord provides Uh, verse 1, in chapter 18, you always said to Aaron you and your son's and your father's house with you shall bear the iniquity related.

To the sanctuary, and that's in that context. Where the lord has reinforced that he has chosen specific people for a specific ministry because we all deserve death and he's holy, but he is also gracious and merciful and powerful and saving. And he has given for the application of Of his message of salvation that points people to christ on earth.

He has given earthly servants, who minister among his people. So, it's in that whole context, then that we have Verse 8 and and following And you always spoke to Aaron here. I myself have also given you charge of my heave offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel.

I have a given them as a portion to you and to your sons as an ordinance forever, this shall be yours of the most. Holy things reserved from the fire every offering of theirs. And we're grain offering and every sin offering every trespass offering for which they render to me shall be most holy for you and your sons.

They're the most holy place. He shall eat at every male. Shall eat it. It shall be holy to you and then he He adds to that, not just Uh, not just That, which is most holy, but he continues. Increasing. Uh, they're uh their maintenance. Why? Because they have families.

Right. So there's also not just that which is offered In those offerings, there's also all the first fruits The verse 12, the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine in the grain their first fruits, which they offer to always have given them to you, whatever.

First. Uh ripe fruit is in their land which they bring to Yahweh shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house. May eat it. Uh, so the lord is facilitating the ministry on earth. That strengthens us and helps us that the spirit uses to give us the word to which we respond by believing in Jesus and turning from our sins and growing in Christ.

And And all of the, the wonderful spiritual ministry, the the lord does for us. He uses Uh, earthly servants. Who have to have not only their earth, their physical and material maintenance, but their families, physical and material. Maintenance taken care of. And so there's for provision for the priesthood.

In addition to the priesthood who Uh, serve, the tabernacle itself, there are there are all the levites who are going to have Many freestly functions, including Uh, collecting and overseeing and administering collection of type. For the maintenance of the poor, and not just the levites. Uh, but you have that in verse 21 behold, i have given the children of Levi, all the times in israel as an inheritance in return.

Uh, for the work which they perform. The work of the tabernacle of meeting. Here. After the children of israel, should not come near the tabernacle of meeting less, they bear sin and die but the levites shall perform. The work of the tabernacle of meeting And they saw bear their iniquity.

And so he commands the The tides to be given. Um, But the levites also. Our recipients from god and just as we learn to be to express our gratitude, for not only having been created by god, but also having been redeemed by god, not just by giving our heart and offering ourselves as spiritual sacrifice but also giving of our substance the levites are To give offering as well.

Uh, to give tithe as well. And you have that from verse 25 to the end of the chapter. Then you always spoke to Moses saying speak, thus, to the levite. When you take from the children of Israel, the ties which i have given you from them. Uh, As your inheritance, then you shall offer up.

Heave offering of it to yahweh 10th of a tithe. And so, this principle That everything that the lord gives us. Uh, we are to receive, not only with gratitude for earthly provision, but also especially for a toning provision. And that we are to respond to him. By. By giving of our substance and even by enjoying, Uh, what we give and We don't have time to go through all that.

Uh, well there's Um you know, there's one particular text about yeah, if you live too far from the place where the Lord puts Ports, his name. And what you may purchase to enjoy. Uh, where you live, instead of at the tabernacle, that might be helpful against some other things that have grown up in the church since Um, Uh, since the first wave feminism in the 19th century and really Charles Finney, even more than that.

Uh, but enjoyment of that which Which god has provided as Is also tied here. But the giving is required, also the levites, which makes sense. If the lord has given them a leadership position, Among the people of israel than they ought to lead and giving You know, we hope boys that Many of you will be.

Graced and gifted and called. Uh, either to The ministry of Of the gospel for even as preachers. For him, your, how your own and your houses earthly maintenance will be coming from and through that which the people of god Cheerfully give from hearts that have been transformed by price.

If you do. If the lord does does that for you, then remember that you need to be A leader in your own house and among the people of god. In how you give and what you give. That. Um, That this is something that every leader of every house, but then, especially, Uh the elders and the deacons in their own houses and in the household of god, Uh, should seek to have Um, But it should seek to have a leadership in.

Uh, what we do with our money especially since the amount is no longer tied down to a tenth. Uh, but use that as a baseline, of course. If in the age of the gospel, the Cheerful heart. And The lord loving the cheerful giver because the cheerfulness comes from christ and it's it's the demonstration.

Of what christ has done, redemptively. Um, Then. Uh, then let each each of us who are in a position of leadership but then, especially the elders. And the deacons take, seriously the the way that god. Has ordained and arranged and instructed, this among his people. We'll see it specifically in the new testament to come, but it didn't start in the New Testament.

These are, these are principles that have been in the lord's church ever since he constituted. As people as a church. Let's pray. Our father in heaven. We thank you. That we do not perish. Although, we certainly deserve it. We thank you that you have. Brought us near in Christ.

Even as we are looking forward to hearing proclaimed, quite specifically, and And the later sermon. Uh, today. We thank you that you continue to give us. Not only Uh, what we need, but more than we need. So that we can. Give for your worship and your work. We pray.

Oh lord, that you would be working in each of us cheerful and generous hearts. But then we pray, especially lord. For those who are going to have leadership in their own homes, That their leadership would be marked by generosity. That thankfulness and giving. And generosity would be something that their wife, their children.

Um, Experience from them. And our lead in by them. And then we pray, especially lord, for our elders, and our deacons. As we have those whom you are providing That we also, Would have a similar role. Uh, in Um, in your household in your family. As you have. Given them.

The, the special role of being used by jesus. In. Leading and directing and coordinating. Facilitating. Your people's worship and service of you in this world. And so, Grant your blessing, we pray. By your spirit that the parts of your word that we've been thinking about and hearing about this morning would bear fruit.

And our minds, our hearts, our lives. Onto the glory of jesus and his name. We ask it. Amen.