

“Our Perpetual Portion”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Baptism Class** - tonight upper room. *Dr. Ricks house Sunday.*
- B. In ch.16 the sons of Korah **despised** *Moses & Aaron*, & **rejected** them. Then judgement fell(rest of ch.16). Then Aaron was shown chosen by God w/his budding branch(17).
1. Read the question in 17:13(are we all going to die?). This is answered in 18:1 (Aaron shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary).
 2. Thus they found security in that very priest whom they **despised & rejected**.
- C. Tithe/Offering; or, Giving/Generosity - Give and serve!
1. Jesus was all about 2 things: **the Son of man**(did not come to be served) **but came came to serve and give** His life a ransom for many.
 2. **Believe** - 300x in Bible; **Pray** - 200x; **Love** - 700x; **Give** - more than **2000x!!!**
 3. You can **live** without giving **but you can't love** without giving.
 4. Giving is a **spiritual discipline**. Give to be a **blessing**.
 5. **Generosity** is the greatest cure of **apathy**. *Where your treasure is, there yur heart will be*
 6. Secret to **getting out of debt** is **generosity**.
 7. Let's starting to look at what we can **give** instead of what we could **get**.
 8. **Generosity** is the antidote to **greed**.
 9. It's God desiring to create a **culture** of generosity!
 - a) Our church will never look more like God, than when we exude generosity!!!¹

II. **OUR PERPETUAL PORTION!**

- A. **DUTIES OF PRIESTS!** (1-7)
- B. (1) How were the Levites to bear the iniquity of the congregation?
1. Cleanse by means of a substitutionary offering.
 2. Aaron & his sons were to make **the sins** of the people **so truly their own** that they were to **eat the sin-offering**.
 3. **Jesus Christ alone satisfies the requirements of this chapter!**
 - a) **He who knew no sin became sin** for us.
 4. Thus we found security in that Jesus whom we **despised & rejected**.

¹ Joe Stowell; Exponential 07

- C. (6) **Helpers that God brings our way to assist us, are considered gifts!**
1. We must **accept** them & **be grateful** for them.
 2. **Understand**, some of these “*helpers*” were levites who had **rebelled** against Moses & Aaron, **but** God still gave them the privilege of **serving Him, & helping the priests.**
- D. (7) **I give the priesthood to you as a **gift of service**** - The priesthood was a *privileged service*, **God-given & God-appointed.**
- E. If you're in the will of God **your work is a **divine vocation.****
1. **Last week** - we defined *being in the will of God* as: If you are **Saved; Spirit-Filled**(yielded); **Sanctified; Submissive**(to God); **Suffering**(from Phil.1:29 *it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him*)...then the next principle is, **Do whatever you want!**
 2. **Wherever you serve in this world do you see it as a **privileged service, God-given & God-appointed?****
- F. **OFFERINGS FOR SUPPORT!** (8-20)
- G. (8) **God has given us what we need!**
1. **He fed** the priests from the **sacrifices** brought to the altar & later in vs.21 from the **tithes. *It's a Perpetual Portion!***
 2. 1 Tim 5:18 **For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*” and, “*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*”** (from Jesus, in Lk.10:7)
 3. 1 Cor.9:13,14 **Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? **Even so** the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.** (J.W. issue)
- H. (12) **I have given them to you** - The love that appointed this ministry(*God*) provided for its maintenance by **granting** to it all **the best of the oil, best wine, best wheat.**
1. **They were to **receive gladly** the **best part** of the sacrifices.**
 - a) Sometimes its very difficult to **receive** from others.
- I. **Their giving was to be their best!** Years ago **Queen Mary** used to make annual visits to **Scotland**. They loved her so much she was free to move freely among the people w/o a private escort. One afternoon while walking with some children, she went out rather far. **Dark clouds** came unexpectedly, so she stopped at a nearby house of a commoner to borrow an umbrella. “**If you lend it to me, I will send it back to you tomorrow,**” she promised.

The lady who answered the door was reluctant to give the stranger her best one, & so got an **old castoff umbrella** out of the attic. One of the ribs was broken, & there were several holes in the fabric. Apologizing, the lady turned it over to the Queen, who she did not recognize. **The next day** there was another knock at the door. When she opened it, she saw a man in gold braid, evidently one of the **royal guards**, holding in his hand her old, tattered umbrella. “The Queen sent me,” he said. “She asked me to thank you for loaning her this.” For a moment the poor woman was stunned; then she burst into tears. “Oh, **what an opportunity I missed when I did not give her my very best!**” She cried.

1. What is your best talent, your choicest asset?
2. Have you given your all cheerfully & heartily to the Lord?
 - a) By this gauge, test your *professed love* for Jesus!
3. Give God your best today! Remember, “**delayed obedience is a brother of disobedience!**”

J. (20) **God has given us Himself!**

1. The priests & levites were assigned places to live in Israel, but they **did not have property** from which they could get income.
2. They had to **trust God** to meet their needs.
 - a) But when God is your inheritance...what more do you need?

K. **Read Ps.16:5,6**

- L. In Maui there is a restaurant called *The Gazebo* [in Napili Shores Resort] (N. of Lahaina)
1. **Explain** 1st the base, Macadamia Nut Pancakes – Then! the whipped butter, w/cool whip, & a little butterscotch whipped in. – Then! Coconut syrup! :-)
 2. That’s my best description of **Psalm 16** – It starts with the base(good pancakes); **& then it just gets sweeter** as it goes along!
 3. This is a **Psalm of delight!** [We find *no trials or tribulations* in this song]
 4. Its characteristic mood is **joyous trust!**

M. (Ps.16:5) **You** – Not just God’s hand, or God’s gifts, but **God Himself!**

1. **You are my portion** – (Levites: they stood separate & apart. They were given no territorial possessions)
2. What a great way to express the **centrality & priority** of the Lord in your life! – **Q: Is He “your” portion?**
3. He who has **God as his portion** is destitute of nothing which is *necessary* to constitute a happy life.²

² John Calvin; Day 41; Psalm 16.

4. Let **God choose** your inheritance for you, instead of fighting for something you'll only struggle to keep & ultimately lose in the end.
5. **My inheritance** – we sing, “*All I have needed thine hand had provided!*” (from, Great Is Thy Faithfulness)

N. (Ps.16:6) **Lines** – boarders, boundaries.

1. God, in His providence knows “*where to draw the lines.*”
2. Prov. 30:8,9 Agur prayed, **Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or Lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.**
3. Problems arise when people don't know where **His lines** are.
Or, they know, & they keep wanting to **move the line!**
4. God is to the Psalmist as the **choicest lands** which have been **lined off & assigned** to him.

O. (19) **Covenant of Salt** - key word *forever*.

1. **Placed on all Sacrifices.** Lev.2:13 **And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt**
 - a) **Dead Sea(or Salt Sea)** is a great illustration for them of something that is perpetual.
 - (1) Tons of Salt per year is harvested from there.
2. **You'll hear this used in weddings.** It is a *covenant of perpetual obligation!*
 - a) One quote I heard, “**place it in adverse weather & it sticks together!**”
 - b) **This was an inviolable covenant!** (never to be broken)

P. **TITHES FOR SUPPORT!** (21-24)

Q. (21) Compensation.

R. **TITHES AS COMPENSATION!** (25-32)

- S. (28) Though the **Levites** sustenance was assured from the gifts of Israel, he was not absolved from the **privilege & duty** of **contributing to the service of God.**
 1. He too must contribute a tithe for the support of the priests.
 2. **We are members one of another.** Eph.4:25

T. **Baptism Class** - tonight upper room.