

GIVE AND TAKE

Job 1

In **Acts 20:35**; the Apostle Paul quotes Christ in the matter of give and take with these words; *“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

In the context Paul is admonishing his brethren to a Christian work ethic in order to support themselves and the needy and not be a burden to others. If one would give, he must possess. One cannot give what he does not already have. The ability to give belongs to those who have something to give. (It is MORE blessed implies prior blessings). In **2 Thessalonians, 3:10**, Paul wrote, *“For when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”* The ability to earn is a privilege and a blessing. To give is to extend that blessing to others. It is better for a man to work and earn his way and help others than, through neglect or idleness, find himself needy and unable to give.

In **Matthew 25:45** Jesus said, *“in as much as ye **did it not** to one of the least of these, ye did it unto me.”* In this context Christ is speaking of spiritual charity. When we don't give to the least of these, we don't give to God. We rob God. Witnessing the gospel is giving. *“I was hungry and you fed me not with the Bread of Life. I was thirsty and you gave me not the Water of Life. I was naked and you clothed me not with His robe of righteousness.”* You did it not unto the least of these and you did it unto me. Whether in the context of temporal or spiritual things, life is an exercise in the art of give and take.

That *“no man is an island”* is true. Everyone is dependent on someone and everyone can meet most or some of the needs of someone else. The question is; are you a giver or, are you a taker?

Sadly, too many are takers. What can you do for me is the prevailing attitude of many today. We have been schooled in the art of taking to the point that *“society owes me”* is the mentality of a large segment of the populace. A reversal of this philosophy is necessary, lest the takers overwhelm the givers and the system collapses. The prevailing attitude of society today is how much can I get for the amount I have to give? Can I get more by giving less? Or will I have to give more to get more?

This works in a free market system but in spiritual matters this formula will not work. In spiritual matters this formula leads to certain failure for those

who practice it. Giving less to get more will fail. Giving more to get more will not succeed. Giving anything or giving everything will only gain the sinner eternal misery. **Read Matthew 16:26.** *“For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* **The answer to both is nothing.** My exercise in the art of give and take for spiritual gain is futile. More than this it is idolatry, and it is deadly. Nonetheless, this is the practice of all by nature, and that continually because *“Every imagination of the thoughts of man’s heart is only evil continually.”* (Giving for reward or fear of punishment) (Genesis 6:5) Do you want to be proficient in giving and taking?

In the Book of Job is the criterion for give and take. **Read Job 1:20-22.** *“Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.”* There is no negotiating with God. We can (*“Come let us reason together saith the Lord”*) but the standard is set: (*“Be ye holy, for I am holy saith the Lord”*) is not negotiable. It is God who sets the boundaries of give and take and He does so at His discretion. Sinners can only receive what He gives and are helpless to influence His giving or taking.

The Book of Job covers 42 chapters of the Bible and is in many ways still a mystery to us. As part of the canon of Scripture we must remember that all scripture, from Genesis to Revelation is centered around and shines forth the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, The Book of Job is no exception. This is a book about Christ and it addresses the question of how can the suffering of the righteous be reconciled with the justice of God? **Job 25:4** asks this question: *“How can he be clean that is born of a woman?”* How can God be just and justify the ungodly? How can God be just and smite a sinless man? **Job is a type** of the righteous man, of the church and of Christ himself. In this historic figure is pictured in shadows and types the ministry and message of Jesus the Christ and his bride the church. In the life of Job is pictured the representation of God’s elect with Job in the first Adam and in the last Adam, Christ.

In Job 1:21 Job declares; *“the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away.”* **What has the Lord given and what has He taken away?** Look at Job.

He gave Job:

a. Affirmation V-1. It has been supposed by some that the Book of Job is an allegory, not a narrative. But the prevailing belief by most scholars is

that he was a real historical figure. Other scriptures support this belief. **(Ezekiel 14:14)** names him with Noah and Daniel. **(James 5:11)** “*Patience*” “*There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job.*” Many bible scholars place the Book of Job as the oldest book in the bible. If so, this would place Job in the time of the patriarchs. Whatever the time, we have Gods testimony that Job was a great man of his time. **Read V-3b.** “*He was the greatest of all the men of the east.*” More than this, he was declared by God to be “*perfect and upright, and one that feared God and eschewed evil.*” Man cannot be more affirmed than to be declared perfect and upright by a Holy God. God gave Job a right standing in His presence. Said he to Satan in **V-8**, “*hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?*” Job was a chosen vessel (a servant of God), given to Christ in the everlasting covenant of grace and marked for eternal glory in heaven. He stood tall in the sight of men and in Gods sight. His legacy lives on even today. God affirmed Job, i.e.; he was highly favored of God. God gave Job:

b. Affluence. V-2. Job had seven sons and three daughters. **V-4.** Job’s family cared for each other, **(V5)** and was greatly loved of Job. **(V-5)** He sanctified them before the Lord and instructed them in righteous ways. Job was blessed with a large family and he showed his gratitude to God for them. He agreed with the Psalmist who said, **Psalm 127:3-5**, “*Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are the children of the youth. (Innocent) Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they will speak with the enemies in the gate.*” Of his children Job said in **V-21**, “*the Lord gave them to me.*”

V-3. Not only did Job have a large family, he was wealthy beyond measure. He possessed all he needed to sustain him and his family in life. He lacked for nothing. God gave him affluence.

c. Affection. V-8. “*And the Lord said unto Satan, hast thou considered my servant Job?*” This does not look like affection when God would turn Job over to Satan. **Hebrews 12:6-8.** “*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*” *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, of which all are partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons.*” God does not veil his children in obscurity but openly manifests them to the world. **Read**

Hebrews 12:11. *“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”* Though we would never choose to be assailed by Satan, God makes us to endure the trials and tribulations of life because He loves us. The Apostle James said this of our sufferings; *“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”* God had great affection for Job and His elect. (*“For God so loved”*)

d. Affliction. V6-19. God gave Job into the hands of Satan to buffet him. God took from Job all that he possessed except his life and that of his wife. The one thing Satan cannot have is the life of one of Gods elect. Why? Because that life has been bought with the precious blood of Christ. Everything we possess is temporal, but life is eternal, either in Christ or with the reprobate in hell. Not only did God take away his blessings, He gave to Job sore trials. All the physical blessings he had enjoyed were now gone. His family was dead except his wife who encouraged him in Job 2:9 to *“curse God and die.”* A stark contrast: Job in plenty and Job in poverty.

The life of Job is a parallel of every sinner whom the Lord loveth.

In the experience of Job we see our oneness with him in our federal head and representative Adam.

God declared this in **Genesis 1:31**, after he had created man, *“And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold it was very good.”* God created man in his image from the dust of the earth and placed him in the garden and said of him; *“very good.”* By God’s declaration Adam was pronounced good. He was, like Job, perfect, upright, and sinless in Gods sight and he feared God. With access to God, he walked with God, he talked with God and he pleased the Lord. His standing before God was a conditional standing, based on his obedience to the law. That law: *“do and live, disobey and die.”* God gave Adam life. He gave Adam a paradise in which to live. He gave him dominion over all his creation. Adam had the choice to obey or disobey God. Adam’s posterity stood in him. As the representative of the whole human race we stood with Job in Adam perfect, upright and obedient. Job, and we along with Adam were given life and everything necessary to sustain that life by God.

But as with Adam, Job and we lost it all. *“The Lord taketh away.”*

1. We lost our position. Job 1:1. *“That man was perfect.”* Our state before God was altered. We stood, in Adam perfect before God. Our perfection gave way to imperfection. Where God had declared us *“very good”* in Adam He now affirms us sinners in Adam. Though our standing in Christ didn’t change, our state before him did change.

2. We lost our purity. V-1. *“That man was upright.”* In Adam we stood righteous before God by His declaration. We became guilty, defiled sinners by imputation and practice. We lost our innocence. We became unrighteous, ungodly and deserving of Gods wrath.

3. We lost our privilege. V-1. *“That man feared God.”* Before our fall in Adam we respected our Creator God without legalism. After we fell our fear of God became legal. **Read Genesis 3:10.** *“And Adam said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; (exposed to Gods wrath) and I hid myself.”* In Adam we were privileged to all the blessings of paradise. We were privileged to worship and serve God acceptably. For disobedience we were driven by God from paradise and alienated from Him and enemies in our minds by wicked works. Those wicked works were disobedience and idolatry, not immorality and lawlessness.

3. We lost our power. V-1. *“That man eschewed (put away, avoid) evil.”* We lost all ability to please God based on anything proceeding from our persons. We lost all ability to restore our fellowship with God. We lost all ability to obey God acceptably. Our free will became enslaved to the sinful nature we inherited from Adam and instead of eschewing evil; by nature we *“drink iniquity like water.”* (Job 15:16) Every attempt we make to reconcile God to us is legal and abominable to a holy God. *“There is none righteous, no not one. There is none that doeth good.”* We are as was Paul who lamented in Romans 7:24, *“O wretched man that I am!”*

The Lord who gave all we had in Adam took all we had in Adam. *“The Lord gave and the Lord taketh away.”*

But wait! Don’t despair! The same Lord who gave and took away has given again. Look again at Job. **Read Job 42: 12-17.** The same God who gave Job, and us affirmation, affluence, affection and affliction in Adam and took away our position, our purity, our privilege and our power has given again.

Job suffered much at the hands of Satan. As I stated earlier, the Book of Job raises and answers the question of how can the suffering of the righteous be reconciled with the justice of God. The answer is revealed in Job, the type

and Christ the Anti-type. What we lost in the first Adam was replaced with better in the Last Adam. How much better? **Read Job 42:10.** *“And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had.”* Job’s temporal blessings before his trials were doubled. His wealth was increased two-fold.

What we had in the first Adam, temporal, conditional blessings were replaced two-fold in the last Adam with spiritual, eternal blessings. Where our living was conditioned on our obedience in Adam, it is now conditioned on Christ’s obedience and the propitiation he rendered by his death for us. Christ not only put away our sins by his blood, he established and the Father imputed to us a perfect righteousness that is all our salvation. This is far better than our previous state in Adam. How much better?

Even God himself cannot take away what he has given us in Christ. To the contrary, God engages himself to ensure we receive every benefit Christ earned for us, even our final glory in heaven. What we had in Adam was conditional: what we have now is unconditional. What we had in Adam was temporal; what we have now is eternal. What we had in Adam was always pending; what we have now is anchored in Christ. *“It is finished.”*

God restored Job with double his possessions, except for his children. That number, of the Elect, chosen by God out of every kindred, tongue and nation has been eternally set and cannot be added to or taken from, even by God himself. **Read Job 42: 15.** Even the daughters, who were excluded from the inheritance in eastern cultures were given equal portions *“by their Father”* with their brothers. Why? Because, **Acts 10:34-35;** *“God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”*

What is the equal portion God has given to His Elect?

He has given us the Savior. Read Acts 5:31. *“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and the forgiveness of sins.”* Christ is the fountain and source of every blessing of God. Upon the God-man was conditioned the elects salvation. Upon the God appointed Surety and Substitute was placed the responsibility of our eternal security. *“Him who knew no sin was made to be sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* He died, the just for the unjust. He obeyed, he suffered, he bled, he died to make satisfaction to law

and justice and bring in everlasting righteousness for those he represented. That righteousness imputed secured forever those for who it was established in an unchangeable standing of justification before God. It is by his blood and righteousness God is just to justify the ungodly.

õ*He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” Job spoke of Christ hundreds of years before his incarnation. **Job 19:25.** “*For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.*” Job had the Savior, not a counterfeit. Do you?

He has given us the Spirit. Read Joel 2: 28-29. “*And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.*”

All of the work of Christ for us, as magnificent as it is, and as sufficient as it is, would be useless without the Holy Spirit’s work in us. Though the Holy Spirit’s work in us forms no part of the satisfaction we owed to law and justice or the establishment of a perfect righteousness we needed, whereby God is just to justify us, without His convincing, (John 16:7-11) Christ would have died in vain. WHY? Because God promised in Jeremiah 32:34, “*they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*” Jesus said himself in John 17: 3, “*this is life eternal that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.*” How shall they know God; by the quickening, convincing work of the Spirit of God. *It is expedient*” It is necessary. It is the Holy Spirit’s work in John 16:7-11 to convince of:

- a. Sin, V-9. The sin of unbelief. “*They believe not on me.*” Idolatry
- b. Righteousness, V-9. “*Because I go to my Father and you see me no more.*” Having finished the work of redemption.
- c. Judgment, V-9. “*Because the prince of this world is judged.*” And all who “*believe not*” (John 3:18) *are condemned (judged) already.*”

This is a convincing without which no sinner is saved, a convincing every sinner for whom Christ died shall experience, a convincing Job experienced when he said in **Job 33:24**, “*I have found a ransom.*” Where in heaven or on earth is a ransom but in the Christ of God. I have found the atonement in Christ. More exact, the Spirit found me. Job had the Spirit of God. Do you?

He has given us the Scriptures. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

There are two gospels in the world today, the gospel of works and the gospel of grace. Romans 1:1-4 defines the true as that gospel *“concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; (his humanity) and declared to be the Son of God with power, (his deity) according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead.”* The *“only begotten”* Son of God. This gospel concerns the only Christ with two natures, human and Divine. Made *“like unto his brethren* (Hebrews 2:19), *that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”* It is that gospel, **(Romans 1:16-17)** *“wherein the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.”* Read John 5:39. *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*

As stated previously, there is no salvation apart from the scriptures. It is the Word of God that *“is sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even unto the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12) Where did Job get his gospel: **Hebrews 1:1.** *“God who at sundry times and in divers manners”* spoke to Job out of the whirlwind. (Job 38:1, 40:6) It is in the Scriptures, the Gospel that the righteousness of God is revealed. Job was versed in the scriptures. Are you?

He has given us sanctity. Sanctity means holiness of life and character. Christ is *“made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification (holiness) and redemption.”* He has given us faith, repentance, perseverance in the gospel and love of the brethren. **Read Romans 8:33-35.** *“Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect?”* It is God that giveth. *“Who is he that condemneth?”* It is God who has taken away (our reproach). *“Who shall separate us from the love of God?”* It is He who has given again. *“The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”*

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