

Launch Sunday

Fulfilling the Mission of the Firstborn

Hebrews 12:22-24

Hebrews 12:22–24 (ESV) — But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Hebrews 12:23a (ESV) — ... and to the assembly [Church] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven ...

The Church of the Firstborn is here on earth to FINISH the MISSION until Jesus RETURNS!

Luke 2:7 (ESV) — And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

1. We ENTER the POSITION of the Firstborn through REDEMPTION

Exodus 13:2 (ESV) — “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

Exodus 13:13b–14 (ESV) — ... Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.’

1 Corinthians 5:7b (ESV) — ... For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) — For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2. We ENJOY the INHERITANCE of the Firstborn through PURITY

Romans 8:29 (ESV) — For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Ephesians 1:11a (ESV) — In him[Jesus] we have obtained an inheritance ...

Ephesians 2:4–6 (ESV) — 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive

together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Colossians 1:15 (ESV) — He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

1 John 2:27 (ESV) — But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Deuteronomy 21:17 (ESV) — He[the father] shall acknowledge the firstborn ... by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.

The Lord has given to His Church all the rights and resources to fulfill the mission!

We can block the blessings through rebellion...

Genesis 4:6–7 (NLT) — “Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

1 John 3:12 (NLT) — We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous.

We can block the blessings through worldliness...

Hebrews 12:16 (NLT) — Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal.

We can block the blessings through immorality...

Genesis 49:3–4 (NLT) — “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength, the child of my vigorous youth. You are first in rank and first in power. But you are as unruly as a flood, and you will be first no longer. For you went to bed with my wife; you defiled my marriage couch.

3. We ENGAGE the RESPONSIBILITY of the Firstborn through MINISTRY

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) — But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

John 19:26–27 (ESV) — When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

2 Kings 2:9 (ESV) — 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.”

Philippians 4:19 (ESV) — And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

John 7:38 (ESV) — Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ”

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**The Church of the Firstborn is here on earth to _____ the
_____ until Jesus _____!**

**1. We _____ the _____ of the
Firstborn through _____**

**2. We _____ the _____ of the
Firstborn through _____**

**3. We _____ the _____ of the
Firstborn through _____**