

Subject: *Honoring God with Our Giving*

Scripture: *Proverbs 3:5-10*

This text goes beyond the matter of giving. “Honor the LORD with your substance” means we should honor Him in all areas of our finances. We should honor God in the way we earn our money, use our money, and give our money. We should honor God with all of our material possessions and not just our money.

In this sermon we are going to focus the Biblical way to honor God with our giving. The world is constantly telling us what we should do with our money. It’s important to what God says about it. We should seek the Lord’s wisdom in His Word as it states in 3:5-6. We must not depend on our own ideas when it comes to money and material possessions (3:7). We need God’s wisdom.

It should not surprise us that the Bible has a lot to say about this subject. Jesus talked about money and possessions in 16 out of 38 parables. One out of every ten verses in the Gospels refers to money or possessions. The Bible contains about 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but over 2,000 verses on money and possessions. God purpose in all this is not to raise money. He is not in the business of raising money, but He is in the business of raising children to honor and obey Him with their money.

Let’s consider what it means to honor God with our giving. A good place to begin is to understand the concept of honoring God. It is the same word used when the Bible says, ***Exodus 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother.*** It is the same word translated “glorify,” which carries the idea of attaching weight or significance to someone. ***1 Samuel 2:30 ...them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.*** How do we honor God in our giving?

WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE OBEY HIS COMMANDS ABOUT GIVING

There is no better way to honor God than to obey God. ***1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*** Going through the motions of worship is no substitute for giving. God has told us clearly about giving our tithes and offerings. Why should a Christian give a tithes (tenth)?

- Tithing was commenced before the Law

Genesis 14:20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek, who was priest of the Most High God. Abraham lived around 2,000 B.C. God gave Law to Moses around 1445 B.C., about 550 years later.

Genesis 28:22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee. Jacob made a vow to God about his tithing.

- Tithing was commanded under the Law

Deuteronomy 14:22-23²² *Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.*²³ *And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in*

*the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithes of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always. Tithing reminds us of God's ownership. He is the owner and we are the stewards (managers). By nature, we are takers more than givers. Tithing is a safeguard against selfishness. God said that failing to give tithes was the same as robbing Him, **Malachi 3:8-10**⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.⁹ Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

- Tithing was commended by Christ

Matthew 23:23 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

Luke 18:12 *I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.* In the story of the Pharisee and the publican, Jesus pictured the self-righteous person as one who fasted and tithed. This man's problem was not fasting and tithing. It was depending on his goodness to gain God's favor.

WE HONOR GOD WHEN GIVING TO HIM IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

We are to honor God with the first fruits of our increase. That means we give to God before anything or anyone else. Giving is done out of conviction instead of convenience. Sometimes a person will ask if he should give tithes based on gross income or net income. Well, what does the government expect? Someone may object and say the government taxes gross income because it has the power to do so. God has all power. Any person who has a problem with the 10% really has a problem with the 100% because they don't understand where it comes from. Here is a good Biblical principle to follow: give God the first day of every week, the first part of every day, and the first part of every dollar. We give God what is first part, not what's left over.

WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE GIVE CONSISTENTLY AND FAITHFULLY

The Bible teaches "storehouse giving." The Lord's house is the storehouse. **Malachi 3:10** *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 *Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.* The Bible teaches that we should give to the Lord faithfully and consistently on the Lord's Day in the Lord's house. We should give our tithes even when we are not in church and "make up" those Sundays we miss. Tithing is different than the world's way of thinking. Tithing is not based on paying for what you get. The world teaches us that we go to a restaurant and pay for our meal. We go to the concert or the movie and pay for what we see. We do to the race or the ball game and pay for what we see. Tithing is not paying for what you get. God deserves our tithes whether we are in the service or not.

WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE GIVE CHEERFULLY

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ⁶ But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. It's not just the amount. It's the attitude we have as we give. A family was trying to teach their young child about giving and they gave him a dollar and a quarter and told him he could give either one in the offering plate. What happened? He gave the quarter and told his parents he remembered the preacher said God loves a cheerful giver.

The prophet Malachi challenged God's people with their attitude in giving. **Malachi 1:6-8** ⁶ A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honor? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? ⁷ Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. ⁸ And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

God knows what we give and why we give it. He examines our heart, our motives. Jesus told us to be selfless in our giving. **Matthew 6:2-4** ² Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ³ But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: ⁴ That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. God will reward every gift that is given with the right motive and the right attitude.

The Lord is more concerned about you than your giving. Because He knows if you love Him, you will obey Him with a cheerful heart. **1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous (burdensome). Remember, God is raising His children to honor Him. He is not raising money.

We honor God when we obey His commands about giving.

We honor God when giving is our top priority.

We honor God when we give consistently and faithfully.

We honor God when we give cheerfully.

Do you honor God with your giving?

Does your giving show God that you truly appreciate all He has given to you?