

HONOR THE LORD WITH THY SUBSTANCE PROVERBS 3:9-10

Text: Proverbs 3:9-10

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⁹Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Introduction:

The book of Proverbs is a collection of teachings from Solomon to his son, showing the young man how to live his life in a manner that was pleasing to the Lord. Such is the case here in our text this morning. In fact I believe that the advice that Solomon was giving his son in these verses, is advice that you and I should hear and heed being children of God today.

We will consider the principle, promises and the purpose of this passage.

Notice with me:

1. THE PRINCIPLE – SUBSTANCE AND FIRST FRUITS OF ALL

Proverbs 3:9

⁹ Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

You may have assumed that I was going to be preaching about tithing, or faithful stewardship in our giving. And I must say that these verses of Scripture can certainly apply to our stewardship, as far as our giving is concerned.

However I believe that the roots of verses 9-10 go much deeper than just our stewardship when it comes to giving. I believe that they can apply to several other areas of our Christian life as well.

The term that Solomon uses in verse 9 “first fruits” actually has its roots that extend as far back as Exodus chapter 23.

Exodus 23:19

¹⁹ The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

It is interesting to consider the

A. The choice – the first of the first fruits

Not seconds, or leftovers, but rather the first of the first.

Not only does God desire the first of the first but we are told where it is to be given.

B. The church – the house of the Lord

Note other references regarding this precept

Exodus 34:26

²⁶The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

Numbers 18:12

¹²All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.

Numbers 28:26

²⁶Also in the day of the firstfruits, when ye bring a new meat offering unto the LORD, after your weeks *be out*, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work:

Deuteronomy 26:10

¹⁰And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God:

Nehemiah 10:35

³⁵And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD:

- God desires our first fruits when it comes to our worship.

God desires our best when it comes to our worship in the house of God. When I'm talking about worship, I'm talking about from the first congregational song to the final amen in the service! Worship doesn't start with the preaching, it starts from the very first note we sing.

God is honored when we sing and when we give it our all!

Psalms 13:6

⁶I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

Psalms 21:13

¹³Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: *so* will we sing and praise thy power.

Psalms 30:4

⁴Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

- God desires our first fruits when it comes to our work

What we do for God we should do our very best!

If you teach you should do your very best.

If you sing you should do your best.

Colossians 3:23

²³ And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

- God desires our first fruits when it comes to our witness

And I'm not just talking about what we say even though that is very important. I'm talking about the life that we live. I don't know about you but I see a lot of Christians today that aren't willing to go the extra mile for God when it comes to being a witness for Christ. Remember God is honored by our first fruits. Not our left over's, but our first fruits, the best that we possibly can give God.

- God desires our first fruits when it comes to our wealth

Too many today give only if they have anything left. God desires to be first even in our giving.

2. THE PROMISES – BARNES FILLED, PRESSES BURST

Proverbs 3:10

¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Barns filled with plenty of corn; so that there will be a sufficient provision of bread for the eater for the ensuing year, and of seed for the sower when the time of sowing returns; so far should they be, it suggests, from being losers by honoring the Lord with their substance, that they should be gainers by it; instead of having less, should have abundantly more.

Presses would be filled ready to burst or run over.

Our motive in bringing our substance and first fruits to the house of the Lord isn't filled barns and presses bursting out.

They are simply the reward of obedience.

Our motive is seen in the purpose of this text

3. THE PURPOSE – HONOR THE LORD

Proverbs 3:9

⁹Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

Our motive in all that we do is to honor the Lord.