

January 13, 2019 - David Sullivan
Honor the Lord With Your Wealth
Proverbs 3:9-10



"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim with new wine."

These are perhaps some of, if not my favorite, verses in Scripture. I love it for its simple admonition on how to live life in focus. A focus that is Christ-centric and not money-centric. God is saying, "if you will...I will." This is a classic example of a promise from God as well as a principle to live by.

Honor, as used in this verse, implies to "give weight or importance." Simply said, we "give weight" to the LORD by placing Him first in our lives: in our time, our talents, and our money. Giving to the LORD is a lifestyle. Whether you are new to the concept of giving a tithe of ten percent to the LORD or whether you've been doing it for years, we all need to be careful that our motive for giving is right. We must not fall into the habit of giving - writing a check or logging onto an app - and then checking off that box and moving on to the next item on our to do list.

Rather, we are to honor the LORD with our wealth. That goes well beyond just tithing. We honor the LORD when we care for the needs of those around us. 1 John 3:17 asks, "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" We honor the LORD when we love others as we love ourselves, the second great command given by Jesus. By giving to the local church faithfully, we enable the church to carry out the mission of sharing the love of Jesus through the sharing of the gospel and meeting the tangible needs of our world.

The passage in Proverbs promises that if we give first, then He will provide for us in abundance. We looked at this a few days ago in the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus blessed the fishes and loaves and the disciples started to give what little they had before it was multiplied. Martin Luther, whose writings triggered the reformation of the church stated:

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

I encourage you today to give weight the LORD with your time, your talents, and your financial resources. Put Him first in all you do, He promises to fill you to capacity if you do.