

THE BLESSING OF HONOR PRT 3

- If you joining us for the first time, we find going through a teaching series titled **THE BLESSING OF HONOR** and today we are doing prt 3.
- This is a second part of last week's teaching titled **GOD HONORING IN ALL**.
- Last week mentioned that true honor is only possible if you whole heartedly honor God first.
- The moment you honor someone or something more than God, the Bible calls it idolatry.
- Let's go into the scriptures with this matter:

1 Samuel 2:30 Therefore, the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever. But now the LORD declares: Far be it from Me! For I will honor those who honor Me, but those who despise Me will be disdained.'

- What a statement – this portion of scripture gives us some insight regarding how God views honor. As far as God is concerned, honor is reciprocal – anyone who chooses to honor God, God will surely honor him likewise.
- The opposite is quite true and no one wants to be in a position in which the God of heaven despises you.

Mark 12:28 And coming up one of the scribes heard them reasoning, knowing that He had answered them well, he asked Him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment.

CONDUCT THAT IS GOD HONORING

- 1. God honor is loving God supremely, more than all other beings and things.**
- 2. God honor is fully submitting to the authority of God's word**

- One of the aspects of honor is to see someone or something in high regard, it means that you take that person seriously.
- When you honor God, you will highly regard His word. This is a clear measure of your honor for God.
- What do you do when your preference contradicts God's word – what will you live by.
- His word is supreme, His word encapsulates His authority.
- When you disregard God's word, you are dishonoring God in the process.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him. 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, Lord, how is it that You will reveal Yourself to us and

THE BLESSING OF HONOR PRT 3

not to the world? 23 Jesus answered and said to him, If a man loves Me, he will keep My Word. And My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

- There is a special blessing: highly esteeming God's word will give you access to God's love, a deeper revelation of God and God's abiding presence.
- David was one man who highly esteemed God's word – David didn't want to move unless God had ordered it, unless God had authorized it. It is recorded that 9 times, David inquired of the Lord in order to get direction from heaven.
 - David's 1st Inquiry – 1 Samuel 23:1-3
 - David's 2nd Inquiry – 1 Samuel 23:4-5
 - David's 3rd Inquiry – 1 Samuel 23:10-11
 - David's 4th Inquiry – 1 Samuel 23:12-14
 - David's 5th Inquiry – 1 Samuel 30:8-9
 - David's 6th Inquiry – 2 Samuel 2:1-2
 - David's 7th Inquiry – 2 Samuel 5:17-21
 - David's 8th Inquiry – 2 Samuel 5:22-25
 - David's 9th Inquiry – 2 Samuel 21:1
- David was readily available to accept God's counsel and that was the difference between him and Saul.
- Saul was rejected as king because he lightly esteemed God's word. Saul thought that I can sacrifice my way out of obeying God's word.

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Does Jehovah delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice! To listen is better than the fat of rams! 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idol-worship. Because you have rejected the Word of Jehovah, He has also rejected you from being king!

- You cannot sacrifice your way out of obeying God's word
- The only way to live a life pleasing to God is by fully submitting to God's word. David knew this very well when he wrote the following scriptures.

Psalms 119:9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. 10 With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me stray from Your commandments. 11 I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.

- As long as we take God's word on the same level as man's word, we will be dishonoring towards Him. There has to be a difference between the weight you place on your pastor's advice and God's counsel.

3. God honor is reflected by how and what you give to God

THE BLESSING OF HONOR PRT 3

- How you give and what you give to God determines your level of honor for God.
- What is it that God wants from you – God wants your heart? That is why we say give your heart to Jesus, open your heart to God and let Him have control (we spoke about that last week).
- Secondly God wants your body – many people don't understand the value of their bodies towards the furtherance of God's kingdom.
- It is God honoring to readily offer your body for His use.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

- The day that the church has a revelation of the value of their bodies in the hands of God, they will start treating their bodies with dignity.
- Your body is yours but was not given for you only but for God's use as well.
- When God wants to do something on earth, He looks for a body that is available. When it was time to save humanity, Jesus needed a body and a body was created for Him.

Hebrews 10:5 Therefore when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but You have prepared a body for Me.

- When you give your body to God, you are giving something valuable that will enable God's kingdom to be established.
- Your body is so valuable to the extent that the Holy spirit uses it as His temple.

1Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits fornication sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit in you, whom you have of God? And you are not your own, 20 for you are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- The expectation is that when you get into a temple, you should see worship taking place. The question is what has been happening in your temple – is it worship or something else.
- The devil is also looking for a body – when the devil wants to manifest wickedness on earth, he also looks for a body to use. That is why people are either used by the Holy Spirit or by evil spirits.
- What you do with your body determines your honor for God and what you do with your body determines what God can do with you and in you.
- You and I have a choice as to what we do with our bodies.

Romans 6: 13 Do not present the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and present the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.

THE BLESSING OF HONOR PRT 3

- At some point David was overcome by lust towards women, which resulted in him taking someone's wife. I am sure we all know the story of Bathsheba, when David took her into bed, resulting in her falling pregnant. When she fell pregnant, David thought he could get rid of the problem by arranging a hit on her husband – a hit was arranged and Uriah the husband died in battle. God is a God of honor and when he is dishonored, there are dire consequences.

2 Samuel 12:9 Why have you despised the Word of Jehovah, to do evil in His sight? You have stricken Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. 10 And therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. 11 So says Jehovah, Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor. And he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.

- Do not play with sin because sin has consequences – you cannot continue in sin and hope that grace will continue to abound.
- How do we reconcile living in habitual sin and claiming that we are fully born again? What I know is that a fully regenerated person cannot continue in sin because they are to sin.
- It comes down to what kind of God you have come to know – do you know the God of justice and truth, the God of grace and mercy?
- When you offer your body as a living sacrifice, something happens – the Lord will make you into an instrument of honor.

2 Timothy 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone purges himself from these, he shall be a vessel to honor, sanctified and useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

- Paul was referring to Hymenaeus and Philetus, who were preaching false doctrine and was saying keeping bad company will make into a vessel of dishonor.
- The issue here is that it is not only sexual sin but anything that goes on in your body that dishonors God needs to be dealt with severely.