

THE BLESSING OF HONOR PRT 4

- If you are joining us for the first time, you find us going through a teaching series titled **THE BLESSING OF HONOR** and today we are doing prt 4.
 - This is a second part of last week's teaching titled **GOD HONORING IN ALL**.
 - We have been exploring God honoring conduct and let's recap from the past week
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**
 3. **God honor is reflected in how and what you give to God**

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 one into a vessel of dishonor.
- When you open up your life to things that are defiling, things that have an anti-Christ spirit to them, it becomes offensive before God.
- It is God honoring when you covenant with your eyes, your mind, your ears to only allow what is of honor to have access to them.
- In other words, anything that goes on in our body that dishonors God needs to be dealt with severely.
- The scriptures also talk about how honor for God is reflected in your giving.

Malachi 1:6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. But if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is your fear of Me?" says the LORD of Hosts to you priests who despise My name. "But you ask, 'How have we despised Your name?'

7By presenting defiled food on My altar. But you ask, 'How have we defiled You?' By saying that the table of the LORD is contemptible. 8When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is it not wrong? And when you present the lame and sick ones, is it not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you or show you favor?" asks the LORD of Hosts

- Many times we don't think much about what we give and how we give but God does pay attention to our giving (service, money etc).
- At some point Jesus stood by the offering place, watching how and what people were giving.
- It was from that observation that He commended a widow who had given 2 copper coins, saying she had given more than everyone else.

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- In the book of Malachi, God addressed how He felt dishonored by what people were offering – people were giving blind animals, crippled sheep and so forth and God had to deal with this.
- You honor God by giving your best
- I did not say, you honor God by giving the most or giving your tithe – what is best for you, might not be the best for another. Giving is relative depending on how God has blessed you.
- David knew how to give God his best – how does it look to give God your best?

2 Samuel 24:22 And Araunah said to David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Behold, oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments, and instruments of the oxen for wood. 23 All these Araunah, like a king, gave to the king. And Araunah said to the king, May Jehovah your God accept you. 24 And the king said to Araunah, No, but I will surely buy from you at a price. And I will not offer burnt offerings to Jehovah my God of that which costs me nothing. And David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

- Araunah was quite generous to give the king the threshing floor and the oxen but David refused the offer. What was wrong David? He understood the concept of honoring God by giving his best. The clue is in this statement “*And I will not offer burnt offerings to Jehovah my God of that which costs me nothing*”
- Unless you experience some sacrifice, you have not truly given your best
- Your giving must cost you something that represents a portion of your very life.
- It is God honoring when you give to God first
- This is how Paul addressed the issue of giving:

2 Corinthians 8:7 But even as you abound in everything, in faith, and in word, and in knowledge, and in all earnestness, and in your love to us; you should abound in this grace also...12 For if the eagerness is present, it is acceptable according to what one has, and not according to what one does not have.

2 Corinthians 9:6 But I say this, He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. 7 Each one, as he purposes in his heart, let him give; not of grief, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.