

Honor The Lord With Thy Substance

Intro: The wise man, Solomon, wrote in Pro. 3:9: “Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:” It will be our intent to consider the first part of this admonition, to honor the Lord with our substance.

I. WORDS:

A. Honor

1. The basic meaning of the word is to “be heavy, weighty.”
2. TWOT: “From this figurative usage it is an easy step to the concept of a ‘weighty’ person in society, someone who is honorable, impressive, worthy of respect.”
3. Thus, it is “to respect, reverence, show esteem, give consideration to.”

B. Lord

1. Here “Lord” is Yahweh (Jehovah).
2. Yahweh is a family name that refers to all three of the Divine Beings.
3. Context can show that it has reference to one specific Being: Father, Son, or Spirit.
4. Yahweh is the supreme One and to whom this honor is to be shown?
5. How?

C. Substance

1. It would specifically refer to the firstfruits of the land; Deu. 26:2 “²That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put *it* in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.”
2. It would extend to all that we possess.
3. However, for our discussion: finances.

D. There are four different facts and truths Christians need to recognize and accept.

II. GOD IS THE OWNER OF ALL THINGS

A. This is true since He created all things.

B. The idea of personal, human ownership is pagan in origin: it is not the teaching of the Bible.

1. Psa. 24:1 “¹ The earth *is* the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”
2. Psa. 50:10 “¹⁰ For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills.”
3. Hag. 2:8 “⁸ The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.”
4. Jam. 1:17 “¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
5. Acts 4:32 “³² And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.”
6. The same is true of the Christian; 1 Cor. 6:19-20 “¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

III. WE ARE, THEREFORE, BUT STEWARDS OF GOD

A. Steward:

1. A house warden, superintendent, overseer, manager, administrator.

2. A person (was often a trusted slave) who manages the domestic affairs of a family, business, or minor child.
3. A steward holds in trust that which belongs to another.

B. God being the owner of all things, then all that we have belongs to Him and we are but stewards of His grace.

1. 1 Pet. 4:10 ¹⁰ "As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
2. 1 Cor. 4:1-2 ¹ "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."
3. Deu. 8:18 ¹⁸ "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day."

C. Stewardship embraces three duties:

1. Make all you can.
 - a. Mat. 25:14-27 ¹⁴ "For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man travelling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. ¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. ²⁰ And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. ²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²² He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. ²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²⁴ Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine. ²⁶ His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: ²⁷ Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."
 - b. Eph. 4:28 ²⁸ "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."
 - c. 2 The. 3:10 ¹⁰ "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."
 - d. Rom. 12:11 ¹¹ "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;"
2. Save all you can.
 - a. After feeding the 5,000 men; John 6:12 ¹² "When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."
 - b. Eph. 4:28 ²⁸ "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."
3. Give all you can.
 - a. Eph. 4:28 ²⁸ "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."
 - b. 2 Cor. 9:6-8 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. ⁸ And God *is* able to

make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:"

- c. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 ¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 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."

IV. GOD HAS GIVEN HIS PEOPLE A WORK TO PERFORM

A. Preaching the Gospel to every creature in all the world.

1. Mat. 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen."
2. Mark 16:15-16 ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

B. To accomplish this, finances are required.

1. Support of evangelist
2. Buildings
3. Tracts
4. Radio
5. Newspaper
6. Television
7. Internet, etc.

V. THUS, LET US HONOR THE LORD WITH OUR SUBSTANCE

- A. 1 Sam. 2:30 ³⁰ Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

B. Thus our need to honor the Lord by putting Him first.

1. 2 Cor. 8:5 ⁵ And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."
2. Mat. 6:33 ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

C. Co-workers with one another and with God.

1. 1 Cor. 3:9 ⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building."
2. 2 Cor. 6:1 ¹ We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."

Conclusion: We are able to meet the obligation, but it takes truly honoring the Lord not just with money, but ourselves.