

Proverbs 3:9,10

HONORING GOD WITH OUR SUBSTANCE

- I. Proper attitude in sowing.
 - A. Our text calls us to “honor.”
 - 1. To honor is to judge something to be weighty or heavy, to be rich and glorious. This word is used in the fifth commandment.
 - 2. We are to honor “Jehovah.” He is worthy of honor because of who He is and because of what He does.
 - B. In our text we are to honor Jehovah with our substances and first fruits.
 - 1. “Substance” refers to one’s possessions, that which God has given us, put into our care.
 - 2. “Increase” refers to our income, that which is added to our substance.
 - 3. The “first fruits” of our increase is the initial portion of the harvest.
 - 4. This was the giving of a tithe, which was older than Sinai and deliverance from Egypt (Gen. 28:22).
 - C. While the believers considers honoring Jehovah this way to be a privilege, the unbeliever sees it as a great expense and folly.
- II. God promises a blessed reward to such giving/ honoring: “barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out...” (10).
 - A. This promise is God’s way of challenging us to “test” Him.
 - B. The figure of physical and material blessings: the God of the weather promises a great harvest of grain and fruit.
 - 1. We must not think that this is a promise of earthly, physical wealth, especially in the New Dispensation.
 - 2. God uses Old Testament language to promise the godly giver who honors Jehovah to receive a great spiritual harvest.
 - C. He that sows sparingly will reap sparingly; and he that sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully (II Cor. 9:6).