

True Disciple #23 Honoring the Lord

Welcome to True Disciple #23. This is Rod Nichols saying thanks for continuing on the True Disciple journey. I hope you are doing two things. First, that you are putting what you're learning into practice in your life and second, that you are spreading the word to other Christians about the True Disciple site and messages. Also, if you aren't receiving our email updates, please go to the True Disciple site at www.TrueDisciple.Info and click on the red starburst labeled Email List to subscribe.

This week, we're going to discuss honoring the Lord, because a True Disciple always seeks to honor God. In the last part of 1 Samuel 2:30, God says, "But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.'"

Those who honor God will be honored and those who don't will be disdained. That means to look upon or treat with contempt. I don't know about you, but I don't want God looking upon or treating me with contempt, so if there were no other reasons, that would be a good reason to honor God.

There are many ways to honor God. Today I'm going to discuss two of them. Honoring the Lord with your wealth and with your body.

Proverbs 3:9-10 teaches us, "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

Honor the Lord with Your Wealth

The first way we are to honor the Lord is with our money. This tends to be the most difficult area for Christians, as only a small percentage tithe and give, yet, we see here that if we honor the Lord by giving the first and best, He will provide overflowing finances and who doesn't want that?

In the area of money or wealth, we are to honor the lord with the first, which is our tithe. That's the first 10% of our gross (before taxes, 401k, insurance, etc.) income. According to Malachi 3:10, we are to bring the whole tithe (all 10%) into

the “storehouse, that there may be food in My house.” In the days when scripture was written, people brought in the first born of their animals and the first of their crops and they actually had a storehouse attached to the temple. These donations provided food for the priests and the poor. Today, we bring money to a church service and place it in the offering. It’s used to take care of the pastors/staff and the poor.

Malachi 3:10-12 gives us a couple of awesome promises about tithing: “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,’ says the LORD Almighty.”

If we honor the Lord by tithing, first, He will throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing you won’t have room enough to store it. Wow! Many years ago, I was meditating on this verse and God reminded me that these are the same floodgates He used to flood the world in the days of Noah. That’s a whole lot of blessing

Second, when we tithe, God promises to protect the other 90% from the attacks of the enemy, which is satan or the devil, so your 90% will go further than the 100% would.

Third, when you tithe, people will see God’s blessing on your life and call you blessed!

The second way we honor the Lord with our wealth is through offerings. This is what you give above the tithe and it can be given at your church or to other ministries.

In Luke 6:38, Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

So, as we saw with the tithe, when we give, we see an overflowing financial response.

Honor the Lord with Your Body

We're also to honor the Lord with our body. In 1 Corinthians 6:20, the Apostle Paul teaches us, "For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body." Glorify is the same as honor. We are to honor the Lord with our body. So, what does that mean? First, it means to take care of your body by eating healthy and exercising, so that you aren't sick and you don't die early.

Second, we're to stay away from sinful activities that would not be honoring to the Lord – things like lying, stealing, gossip, cheating, adultery, and coveting.

Third, we're to honor the Lord with our thinking. Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." We aren't to be worrying and fretting. That's not honoring the Lord, in fact it's doubting Him.

Honoring the Lord with your body starts in His Word, the Bible. By studying scripture, we keep from conforming to the ways of the world by transforming or renewing our minds. You see, when we accept Jesus as our Savior, our Spirit is renewed, but our mind and flesh are not. In fact, because our mind and flesh are naturally connected to the world, they will be daily at war with your spirit. However, by renewing your mind, it will bring it in sync with the spirit, so you can walk in the spirit, not in the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

Most Christians don't honor God in this way. They spend more time watching television and looking at Facebook, then studying the Word of God and renewing their minds. However, true disciples, always honor God by investing time in God's Word every day. Not just reading, but studying it, praying over it, meditating in it. How about you – how much time per day are you investing into honoring God by reading His Word?

In your pursuit of becoming a True Disciple of Jesus, it's critical to develop a lifestyle that honors God. Honor Him with your money through tithes and offerings. Then honor Him with your body by becoming a lover of His Word. If you honor the Lord, He will honor you!

That's it for message #23. I look forward to our next time together, as we venture forward to become True Disciples.