

## Introduction

1. Our trust must be firmly rooted in the LORD ([Pr. 3:5-6](#)).
2. He deserves our utmost respect and reverence ([Pr. 3:7](#)).
  - a. Blessings are attached to this behavior ([Pr. 3:8](#)).
3. Our giving must reflect our trust and reverence of the LORD ([Pr. 3:9](#)).
  - a. Blessings are attached to this behavior ([Pr. 3:10](#)).

## I. “Honor the LORD with thy substance...” ([Pr. 3:9](#))

1. The central sense of “honor” (*kabed* H3513) is “to be or become heavy.”
  - a. When used negatively it speaks of difficulty, harshness, or heaviness (cf. [Isa. 6:10](#)).
  - b. In a positive sense, it denotes giving weight and thus honor, respect, or glory.
  - c. Those that honor God will be honored by Him ([1 Sam. 2:30](#)).
2. Substance (*hon* H1952) refers to wealth or riches thus possessions.
  - a. “**Wealth** gotten by vanity shall be diminished: But he that gathereth by labour shall increase” ([Pr. 13:11](#)).
  - b. “I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, As *much as* in all **riches**” ([Ps. 119:14](#)).
  - c. The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) brings out the idea of just or God-approved methods of obtaining wealth in [Proverbs 3:9](#).
3. God is the one that enables each of us to obtain wealth ([Dt. 8:18](#)).
  - a. The silver and gold belong to Him ([Hag. 2:8](#)).

## II. “...And with the firstfruits of all thine increase” ([Pr. 3:9](#))

1. The firstfruits are the best of our best.
  - a. Abel offered to God according to faith ([Heb. 11:4](#)).
  - b. Israel was required to give the firstfruits which was then given to the priests to provide for their needs ([Dt. 26:1-11](#); [Num. 18:12-19](#)).
2. Increase (*tebuah* H8393) has to do with our income, produce, or revenue.
  - a. To give God the firstfruits of our income means then that we consider our income **before** taxes (cf. [Lk. 20:25](#); [Rm. 13:1-7](#)), bills, necessities, and *especially* luxuries when we decide what to give to Him.

3. The Israelites were not to hesitate or put off giving their best ([Ex. 22:29](#)).
  - a. liquors (*dema* H1831) “**best drippings**, best juice of the grape crop or finest oil of the olive vat, i.e., the juice drippings of a grape or olive press vat, not the compressed portions, but the unpressed, especially good, without bitterness or sediment ([Ex 22:28](#)[EB 29]+), as a sacrifice” (DBL Hebrew).
  - b. God and procrastination do not go together ([Hag. 1:1-11](#))!

### III. “So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, And thy presses shall burst out with new wine” ([Pr. 3:10](#))

1. Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive ([Ac. 20:35](#)).
  - a. He also said to give, and it shall be given to you ([Lk. 6:38](#)).
2. God challenged Judah to give properly and see if they had room enough to receive an abundant blessing from Him ([Mal. 3:10-12](#)).
3. We might shy away from teaching this because it sounds like “health and wealth” or “prosperity” false doctrine.
  - a. If the motive for giving is selfishness we already know that it is condemned (cf. [Ac. 8:18-23](#)).
  - b. We know for a fact that God will take care of our **needs** now if we put Him first ([Mt. 6:25-34](#)).
  - c. We know for a fact that God will bless His faithful children abundantly in eternity ([Jn. 14:2-3](#); cf. [Eph. 1:3](#); [2 Pt. 1:11](#)).
  - d. Meditate on this: who better to bless with prosperity than the one who will honor God with the firstfruits and give to others in need?

### Conclusion

1. The Lord’s church should be the most generous givers there are.
  - a. It is one of the ways that we honor God.
  - b. It is one of the ways that we show the love of God to others.
2. God gave us His very best in sending His Son.
  - a. The least we can do is give Him the best of our best!