

TO HONOR

[Scripture before lesson – Matt 15:8,9]

[Eph 6:2,3] Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

What does it mean to Honor our father and mother?

Who has a clear concept of Honor?

I thought I did, until I prepared this lesson.

How necessary & important in God's plan of salvation is honor?

Very! Without honor, we can't be saved.

Honor is necessary to perfection (another word often misunderstood), to our being complete.

It's important we know what God's understanding of honor is so we can honor Him properly – in the way He wants, NOT by what we think it means.

What **do** we think of when we think of honor?

Do we honor our parents BY **praising** them? By **obeying** them? By **Respecting** them?

Not really. Those things are NOT honor.

Yes, if we honor our parents we WILL do these things,

But, we should NOT mistake the things that GO with honor, for HONOR itself.

If we do that, we miss the point of what honor really is.

And In fact we may NOT be honoring at all, when we think we are.

PRAISE?

Is honor, praise? If we praise are we honoring?

[Matt 15:8] - This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Was this honor to God – the words from their lips?

No, something was missing – their heart.

OBEDIENCE?

Is honor **obedience** - as in “honoring the speed limit”?

Is the act of obedience honor?

[Matt 23:25] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Obedient, yes, but were the Pharisee honoring God? No, something was missing.

They did the deeds, but there heart – the inside – was wrong.

No, honor isn't obedience.

RESPECT?

Is honor **Respect**? No, we can respect someone without honoring them ...

[Matt 22:15-16] Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

There was an outward show of respect. But they did it hypocritically, not from the heart. And we can pay respect, **without** hypocrisy, but still without honoring.

Consider a soldier saluting: he may not think much of the man, but he will respect the rank and tradition and salute – render the appropriate honor, but it's not honor.

No these things, Praise, Obedience, Respect are NOT honor by themselves.

In fact without honor, they are empty things:

Praise is an empty thing – by itself

Obedience is an empty thing – by itself

Respect is an empty thing – by itself.

Do you Praise God, Obey God, Respect God but is it VAIN – without heart?

These are ACTIONS! But what PROMPTS these actions is VERY important – the KEY thing.

HONOR MUST INVOLVE OUR HEARTS

The Lord wants our **hearts**. This is the eternal part of us, the part that will live forever, it's what God is interested in.

[1 Cor 13:1] Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Without our heart behind it, without charity, without love, our **praise** is merely a “tinkling cymbal”. Remember this verse:

[Matt 15:8] - This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

God wants our **hearts** to be **close** to Him, not as in “next to” or side by side, but **close** in **fashion** to His heart. That's what God wants from us, that's why we are here.

Ok, we've defined what honor isn't, what is honor – as God defines it?

Honor comes from Greek word “Tim Ah' o”

It means to Prize, to put a Value on. It was translated this way once in the KJV:

[Matt 27:9] Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

That word “value” there is Greek word “Tim Ah' o”.

In all other instances it is translated, “honor” in the KJV.

When we honor something then, we see it as **valuable**, we **prize** it.
And that's the way "honor" is used most of the time.

In the KJV, a few times the English word "honor" is used for another greek word "Doxa" – which means to glory or to glorify. The great majority of the time however, Doxa is translated "Glory". Which is good. I wish they had translated it that way ALL the time in the KJV for that glory is **NOT** something that sinful men do very well.

It's like having a liar tell an honest man,

"Oh you're so honest, that's so good, I admire that so much". Yet , he won't change

[John 5:41-44] ¹I receive not honor from men. ⁴²But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. ⁴³I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. ⁴⁴How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that *cometh* from God only?

They valued men and their opinions and their honor, more than God.

How do we honor Christ?

We Value him and his word, we seek it out and hold it close to us and don't let it go or be taken from us.

We prize what he has called us to and consider it our highest calling.

We replace the lesser things of the world, with the valuable things of God.

RECONSIDER SOME VERSES

Now, reconsider some verses, thinking of Honor as to **value** something and **prize** it.

[Eph 6:2,3] Honor thy father and mother. Prize them, value them.

Parents want to give **good** things to their children.

If children **honor** their parents they will **receive** what their parents give to them.

It's that way with God, it's that way also with our physical parents, if we HONOR them!

But do you think God is really thinking of physical things here?

That children honor their parents by valuing them in a physical sense?

What child wouldn't say, "Wow! Thanks for the car Dad!" and gladly receive the keys.

But what of the **values, the spiritual things**, our parents want to give to us? Sharing, loving, kindness, forgiveness, mercy, patience? Our parents want us to have these qualities, they want us to be faithful Christians. If we **HONOR** our parents, if we value them, we will receive and embrace these things from them also.

We'll obey them, not because we have to, but because we HONOR them, we consider them to be valuable to us and we prize what they give us. IF we honor our parents we will praise them and respect them, not because we want to butter them up to get more, but because we **value** what they have done for us, we **prize** them, we **honor** them.

But what of our heavenly Father, do we HONOR what He has offered us?

[John 5:22-23] For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: ²³That all *men* should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him

To not value Jesus, to not consider him worth listening to and obeying is to **dishonor** God. We should **value** Jesus words and obey them, NOT because we have to, NOT because we don't want to go to the bad place, but because we VALUE what God has given us – His Son and the promise of eternal life with him, Because we PRIZE heaven and want it! That's why we obey and praise God.

The Jews didn't value God's word as much as their own.

[John 8:48,49] Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? ⁴⁹Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honor my Father, and ye do dishonor me.

They honored themselves, they valued their opinions and thoughts more than those of God.

[Matt 15:4-6] For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. ⁵But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is a gift*, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; ⁶And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free*. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

And that then leads into the scripture read at the beginning of the lesson:

[Matt 15:8,9] - This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

They valued themselves and their traditions more than God.

They didn't value God and his son, they dishonored God.

Are we dishonoring God?

We are, if we value man's word more than God's word.

What did God think of Esau? - Who thought what he was given was of little value!

[Heb 12:16] Lest there *be* any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Do you see the **necessity** and the **benefit** of honoring God?

We **must** prize and value God's **will** for us.

God's will must displace and eliminate our will.

We throw away the lesser, to keep the more valuable.

And what's so hard about that IF WE VALUE GOD, IF WE HONOR HIM?

And if we WANT to hold on to the lesser things? What are we saying? We value THEM!

Look why this is so very necessary.

[James 1:14-17] But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. ¹⁶Do not err, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷Every 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.

When we value and prize the things of the world, we lust after them. And from this comes SIN! All Good comes from God. We MUST honor God- value his qualities and **want** them for us. If not, then we value **ourselves**, the things of this world and we lose.

But God has told us what to value and prize:

[1 Peter 2:17] Honor all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

God does, He considers us valuable. He sent Jesus to die for our sins. He is long suffering not willing that **any** should perish [2 Peter 3:9].

If God has that mind, if we honor Him, we will have that same mind also.

Jesus honored the Father AND was obedient.

He said, "If it be possible let this cup pass, nevertheless not my will by thine".

We must replace our will, what we want, with what God wants for us.

We must honor our God, value his commandments and obey them BECAUSE WE WANT THE PRIZE!

[Romans 2:6,7] Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:

By patient continuance, what is it we seek? ... Honor!

Really though, will God honor us?

[John 12:26] ⁶If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honor.

If we serve Christ – God will honor us.

If we value Jesus, giving up all we have to have Him instead,

God will value us, He will prize us

He will hold onto us & take us to Him.

HE WILL HONOR US! As we have honored Him by believing on Jesus whom He sent.

Honor Him, Not by mumbling words to a song, just moving our lips, but singing from our hearts: Hallelujah, ***How Great Thou Art, To Cannans Land I'm On My Way***, and come go with me to those ***Hilltops of Glory!*** How will we sing these if we honor God – if we value Him and the prize He has put before us!

Honor Him, Not by warming a pew, wishing we were out fishing or shopping some great sales, but **coveting** His every word, wanting to learn more so we can hear some day "Well done thou good and faithful servant".

Honor Him, Not by grudgingly putting a few dollars in the collection plate, but by giving sacrificially, till it hurts, knowing that Jesus hurt a lot on that cross for us. And God hurt a lot having to watch him there. Honor him by giving, rejoicing that by doing so we can support the work of the church Jesus died for; give so we can be partakers and fellow servants in spreading His word!

Honor Him, by learning and telling others the reason of the great and **valuable** hope that lies within us and the **prize** of heaven that we are looking forward to.

Yes! As servants, as those who have been bought by the blood of Christ, if we **honor** our master, we **will do his will** – we will be obedient, we will praise Him for his great generosity and love, we will respect Him for the great sacrifice. And is this some BIG thing we do? No, remember that God honored us first!

[Rom 5:8] But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

INVITE

Will you honor God?

Yes, IF you think the Hope is valuable, if you think heaven is really a prize to be obtained.

But, do you think that?

Have you come to that conclusion – that you want to Honor God?

That you value His word, not mans, and prize what He offers us, Glory, Honor, Immortality, Eternal life, not what the god of this world, Satan offers, money, power, popularity.

God has a word for this.

When we clean house, when we haul out the trash,

When we pitch out the things we don't value any more to make room for better things.

When we get rid of our wants, our desires – ourselves.

When we replace these things with honor towards Gods

Prizing what HE values and not what we want.

Yes, God has a word for when we come to acknowledge:

[2 Cor 5:15] And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Yes, God has a word for this, It's REPENTANCE – a change in mind.

When we honor God, we'll REPENT and we'll confess the name of the only one by whom we can reach God, Jesus. And then we'll be baptized, immersed in water:

[1 Cor 15:43] It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

If you have been **dishonoring** God, come make it right now!

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, 3/28/2010