

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Honor God With Your Substance

(Jerry Fite)

Wisdom instructs the ancients to “Honor Jehovah with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of thine increase” (Proverbs 3:9). The Israelites, while having funds to live on, and potential increase to enrich one, are instructed to remember God with their material assets. God was not to be just a passing thought in prayerful thanksgiving, but a constant reminder that one’s substance must always honor Jehovah in use.

Honoring God with our substance and increasing wealth begins by recognizing that the world and all contained in it belongs to Jehovah. David Honors the Creator by writing, “The earth is Jehovah’s and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein” (Psalms 24:1). While the substance may be “thy” and “thine”, in reality, it all belongs to God. We may have exercised great judgment and expertise in increasing wealth, but it is God who has blessed us with “power to get wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18). Our substance and increase should be used in such a

way which honors its true owner: God.

We honor God with our substance by using it to mercifully help the poor in their time of need. “He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker; but he that hath mercy on the needy honoreth Him” (Proverbs 14:31).

When we honor God with our substance and increase by sharing it with others, there is a strange phenomenon that takes place: God continues to fill our coffers. “So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy vats shall overflow with new wine” (Proverbs 3:10). God continues to bless those who share with others, so they can continue to share with others and honor God with their substance.

When we help the poor with our substance we are lending to God who will repay us. “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto Jehovah, and his good deed will he pay him again” (Proverbs 19:17). The righteous sharer will even be blessed from the coffers of the selfish rich.

“He that augmenteth his substance by interest and increase, gathereth it for him that hath pity on the poor” (Proverbs 28:8).

Today God’s people honor God with their substance and increase by giving according to how God has prospered and blessed us. “Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come” (I Corinthians 16:2). Note that the context for such instruction is helping poor saints (I Corinthians 16:1).

The principle of God blessing those who share their substance with others is also emphasized by Paul. “And God is able to make all grace abound unto you; that having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). God will “...supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness” (2 Corinthians 9:10). The righteous will regard the poor and honor God by sharing one’s substance with the needy.