

Are You Honoring The Lord?

If you are like me you are already thinking about Thanksgiving dinner! What a great day that is. Football, food and family. What's not to love about that?

You will hear a lot about Thanksgiving in the next few weeks. It is our holiday that we set aside to be grateful and thankful for all the blessings God has provided to us. The basis of our current Thanksgiving goes all the way back to the Pilgrims. In November of 1621 their first corn harvest proved successful and they held a celebratory feast in honor of the bumper crop. They wanted to honor the Lord for his protection and provision.

The biblical nation of Israel had their own way of showing thanksgiving. It was called Firstfruits. Firstfruits was a feast held in early spring as a time of thanksgiving for God's provision.

Listen to what Proverbs 3: 9, 10 says, "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

The Bible talks a lot about giving to God our first fruits. What it literally means is that we give God our best. A wise man once said that the key to being able to afford to give to God was to write the first check out to the church. That way you had to manage your life on what was left. Writing the first check to God is a way of giving Him your first fruit offering. It is showing honor to the Lord.

I think the key of the verses we read were summed up in the phrase, "Honor the LORD with your wealth." The word wealth there simply means whatever you have. The question for all of us as we approach this offering is whether our gift truly honors the Lord. Is your gift today a first fruit gift or is it a left over? Does God get from you what is left after you spend what you want? To truly honor the Lord with our giving our gifts need to represent our best effort.

As we enter into this Thanksgiving season let's consider how our gift can reflect our sense of gratitude for all of God's blessings. So as our ushers come forward this morning please consider your gift. We have an opportunity to give a first fruit gift, literally, the best of what you have. Let's all of us strive to always give God our best!