

## First Things First – August 4th

College football is just around the corner, and already the arguments are starting about who is number one. Who doesn't like to be first? We always want to be first, from winning a race, match, or game to standing in line. First place is the place everyone wants to be in. Yet sometimes, we willingly forego being first.

We do this because first place is not just the place for winners but also the place of honor. Don't you offer them the first of everything when you have company at your house? When it comes to getting in the food line, who doesn't want to be first? Yet, we offer our guests the first serving. We even open doors for people so they can go in first. First is a place not just for winning, but it's a place of prominence and honor. Putting someone or something first in your life shows what you value.

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."

It is not as if God needs our money. After all, the Scriptures say he owns the cattle on a thousand hills. God wants what our money represents, our heart. Giving to God the first of all we have shows our love for Him. You show God has the first place in your heart when you give.

So, today as we focus on the offering, let's show that God is first in our lives by giving an offering that obeys and honors Him! Find the easiest way to express your love to God by giving your first fruits!