

## **What Money Can't Buy**

By Rick Ezell

“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” (Prov. 3:9-10 NIV).

Consider the following: Four out of five Americans owe more than they own. Forty percent borrow more than they can make monthly payments on. The average American family is three weeks away from bankruptcy. According to Social Security, eighty-five out of one hundred Americans have less than \$250 in cash saved by age sixty-five.

I don't know of a person who wouldn't want a lot of money or material riches or financial wealth, thinking their needs would be gone. So how do we get it? While many are hoping for a grand return on their investments or an inheritance from a family member or, God forbid, winning the lottery, a better way exists.

Solomon was the Warren Buffet of his day. He advised us to “Honor the LORD with our possessions.” The word for *honor* means “heavy” or “weighty.” To say that someone “He carries a lot of weight” we mean that he has a lot of clout. God is weighty; He has eternal influence. We are to use our money to increase God's fame, to extend his reputation, to show that he is first in our lives.

When we do, God honors us. God blesses those who bless him. If you esteem God, by giving Him the first portion of your money, “then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” Filled-barns and overflowing-vats are not a guarantee of financial wealth, but rather metaphors for a full life with needs being met; knowing that the future is secure. One lives confidently and comfortably. That's a great way to live. And, money can't buy it.

Those who honor God, God will honor.

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