

# Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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*Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.*

***May God richly  
bless you!***

*Tom & Debbie*

## I Will Honor Those Who Honor Me

**F**or those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. 1 Sam 2:30

Just imagine... to be honored by God... that God, Himself... God Almighty, Creator of all that is... would condescend to even notice us, let alone that He would choose to honor us... what a thought! Perhaps I'm being generous in saying 'we.' Maybe I wouldn't fit into that category... or maybe you wouldn't... let's see if we do.

Notice that God says He will honor the one who first honors Him... do you honor God... do I? What does it mean to 'honor' something or someone, or to be honored by someone? It means to act in such a way that your attitude toward something indicates it is the thing you desire, the thing you seek, the thing or person to which you defer or submit. In other words... simply... that which is **most important** to you.

Is God most important to you? Is He most important to me? Of course, we would say that He is... but do our actions show it to be true?

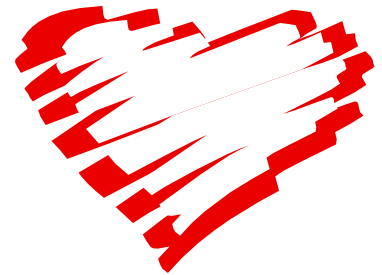
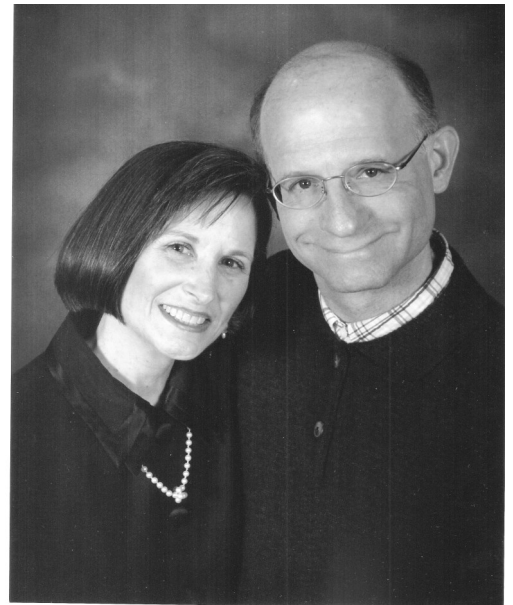
God honored David because David honored God. David and some of the other writers of the Psalms wrote of how they desired God above all else...

'Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.' Psm 73:25

'O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.' Psm 63:1

'For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.' Psm 84:11

those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*. Psm 34:10



*He has committed to  
us the word of  
Reconciliation.*

*Therefore, we are  
Ambassadors for Christ.*

*2 Corinthians 5:19,20*

Delight yourself also in the LORD,  
And He shall give you the desires of  
your heart. Psm 37:4

I've been thinking about this for a  
couple of reasons... I know that I really  
don't always honor God. Oh sure, I go  
to Church, I read my Bible and pray, I  
spend 3 hours on Sunday night on the  
Radio, I visit and pray with people, I  
even lead people to Christ but all of  
those things together leave quite a few  
other hours during which I am not  
honoring God... as a matter of fact, I'm  
too often dishonoring God and maybe  
you are too.

Here's the other reason this has been  
on my mind. As much as I might try  
sometimes, I can't run from the  
realization that the Lord Jesus Christ is  
just about to return, coming in the  
clouds to receive me up unto Himself in  
what is commonly referred to as the  
Rapture. We can try to ignore reality,  
we can deceive ourselves into thinking  
that it could be far off into the future,  
but any honest accessing of the world  
and current events; the Great Apostasy  
and falling away in the Church is all  
around us; the 'Church' and airwaves  
are filled with false teachers and false  
prophets, wolves in sheep's' clothing;

the Antichrist is about ready to break  
forth on the World Scene; Russia and  
Iran (Magog and Persia in Ezekiel 38)  
and the rest of the nations listed are  
ready and poised to invade and destroy  
Israel now, from Syria; we are 69 years  
past Israel's rebirth and Jesus said the  
generation that saw that miraculous,  
major sign of the last days would not  
pass away until the Rapture, the  
Tribulation and Jesus' second coming  
to Earth all took place.

Don't deceive yourself... I'm trying not  
to... His return for us is soon... very  
soon... it could be today. We all want  
to 'finish well.' We all want to stand  
before Him and hear Him  
say, 'Well done, good and faithful  
servant; you were faithful over a few  
things, I will make you ruler over many  
things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'  
Matt 25:21 The World is full of people  
headed for Hell; the Church is filled  
with so many who will flabbergastedly  
hear Him say, 'Depart from Me, I never  
knew you.' Matt 7:23

I know... to some it seems that I'm  
always harping on the same things...  
beating a dead horse... over and over...  
End Times, soon Rapture, Rewards and  
Loss of Rewards, False Teachers, etc....

Hey! It's not my fault that God has  
caused me to recognize reality, to be  
able to clearly see the signs of the times  
in which we live. But, it would be my  
fault if I lazily gave up trying to warn  
anyone I could, even if they refuse to  
open their eyes and ears.

Let's look at some of the things that you  
or I might be doing that are... or are not,  
honoring God.

It's easy to pick out obvious sin but what  
about all of those small seemingly  
insignificant things we do that we  
conveniently forget. I'm not advocat-ing  
a legalistic lifestyle where we must  
invent and observe countless rules and  
regulations in order to prove to God,  
ourselves and each other that we really  
are saved. As a matter of fact, I'm not  
advocating any rules for the truly born  
again Child of God. We have complete  
freedom. Our salvation is sure and  
secure in Christ because He alone is truly  
faithful and able to keep us. What I am  
driving at though, is that everything we  
do... everything... either honors God or  
honors something else... and by that  
standard, we are determining what  
rewards or loss of rewards we will  
experience when we stand before Him.  
'Those who honor Me I will honor, and  
those who despise Me shall be lightly  
esteemed.' 1 Sam 2 He is speaking here  
of His own children too.

If I get angry at another driver, what am I  
really doing? I am saying to God, 'At this  
moment, to hold and nurse my self  
righteous anger, is more important to  
me than walking in fellowship with You,  
Lord... so just jump in the back seat while  
I take care of this idiot! You are not most  
important to me right now and I am  
choosing to not honor You through my  
thoughts, words and actions.'

Yes, that really is what I am saying, even  
though I rarely, if ever, clearly and  
completely think it through.

If something breaks, doesn't work right...  
if I become frustrated and angry I am  
saying to God, 'I don't care that You say  
You are in control of all things and that  
You are bringing this trial to shape and

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mold me into the image of Christ... I'm angry... quit it... leave me alone, go away!

If I'm a person drawn to drugs or alcohol... I'm saying, 'Leave me alone right now... this feeling I'm after is more important to me than walking closely with You... and shut the door on Your way out!'

By the way... if you're one who 'likes a little wine or beer with dinner,' ask yourself how long you'd drink it and continue to pay so much for it if it was alcohol free... just saying...

Maybe it's pornography or tobacco... anything that causes me to want to duck into the bushes and hide from Him for a while... I am not honoring Him... I am despising Him and I can expect the concomitant reward when I stand before Him.

If I choose to flush away an hour or two, or ten, watching television or movies that proffer the worldview of the *Kingdom of Darkness* which, by the way, is almost all television and nearly everything from Hollywood, then I can expect Him to say to me, 'You weren't faithful in the small things, the few things... how can I entrust you to put you over many great things in My Kingdom?'

Maybe I like to read books, novels that are ultimately meaningless and worthless... how many hours have I spent saying, 'It's more important to me to

honor John Grisham or Clive Cussler right now, instead of You, Lord? I'd rather set my mind on the next murder mystery than to set my mind on the things above.' Col 3:2

Maybe I spend hours every day with clothes, hair, jewelry and makeup, desperately trying to fit myself into the image that the world has convinced me I must emulate. I am really saying, 'I am not satisfied with the way You made me, Lord... You messed it up when you made me... I'd only be good enough if I looked the way the world says I should.'

Perhaps I've made food the god I honor, perhaps I overeat to the destruction of this incredible living machine I live within, dishonoring God Who created it and gave it to me while I'm here on Earth.

Maybe I refuse to love and honor my wife, or submit to the leadership of my husband... I can always find myriad excuses why he/she doesn't deserve love, honor, respect, etc but the reality is, I am shaking my fist at God saying, 'I refuse to obey You in this! Don't you see what kind of person You stuck me with!'

We only honor God when we willingly choose to submit to His care, leadership and authority... when we obey what He has commanded in His Word... when we believe all that He has

said about Himself and about us, that He loves us and cares for us and only has our best at heart.

We honor God when we wait on Him for His leading and direction, when we wait for Him to accomplish His will in our lives. We only honor Him when we courageously examine ourselves, our actions, our motives and intentions.

We honor God when we truly want Him above all else, when we seek Him above all else, when He is our goal, our heart, our only treasure.

God does not sit around wringing His hands, wishing we would deign to brighten His day with our appearing. He tells us clearly, 'God will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath.' Rom 2

As regards salvation, we are given what we could never earn; we are given only what the Lord Jesus Christ earned for us but rewards, what we will be given when we stand before Him... we will be given exactly what we have earned... no more and no less.

He is gracious and full of mercy, but He will not be mocked. We'll reap what we've sown. Time is short. Honor God.

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***The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few.*** Matt 9:38

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