



THEME: EXAMINING OUR YEAR OF HONOUR (MAY 2011)

Topic: PATHWAYS TO HONOUR 2

Text: Prov.4:1-19, Ps.119:105

Introduction:

Today, we shall learn that both honour and dishonour have pathways (Prov.4:14-19), judgement and rewards (Rom.2:5-16). 2 Tim.2:19-21 asserts that "...in every great house, there are vessels of honour and vessels of dishonour." Which one are you? It is clear that in both honour and dishonour, God's love stands sure. He's invested so much in you that He would not throw you away... It is better to deserve honour and be denied than to be given an undeserved honour. And lastly, we need capacity to identify, retain and transmit honour.

What are the Pathways to Honour?

1. **Honest Toil (Doing 'good')** – 2Tim2:15-22, 3:16- (the rule of God's word). There is a bad toil, a by-product of a curse (Genesis). True riches cannot be separated from Honour and you cannot separate true riches from diligence- Prov.12:24, Prov.13:4, Prov.21:5, Prov.22:29. These are people that crave good success- Josh.1:8

We need some **HIDDEN VIRTUES** as we progress on our path of honour:

- a) **Humility:** Humility goes before honour and helps to **retain** it- Prov.15:33, 29:23. Our attitude comes in here because **character** is the backbone of the anointing- Prov.18:12. Honour comes from progressive actions, usually behind the scene. Rom.2:5. You don't get honour in one day but doing good continually. Your "salt of the earth" must be deployed appropriately. Please note that if you wait for God to humble you, you will be humiliated. You are to do it yourself.
- b) **Teachable spirit (Correction):** It is the flip-side of humility (Humble people receive correction easily). Prov.29:1 talks of response to rebuke by those who do not value correction (pride- Naaman Vs. His servant at the prophet's command). The most difficult church to pastor is the Church-in-the-house because of familiarity (contempt). Prov.13:18, 15:31-33, Ps.112 (the blessed state of the righteous)- We need to be delighted in God's commandment to operate in automatic blessings of honour (Psalm 1)
- c) **Wisdom:** Enough capacity for witty invention. Prov. 3:13-18, 4:5-9, 1Cor.1:30 & 31. Wisdom brings favour, attracts honour and provides an edge, such that you become first among equal. A man of wisdom never despises but shows mercy like David showed Saul (vengeance has no foresight).Prov.21:21
- d) **Integrity:** If you say so, it is so. If it is not moral, ethical or just, don't it!
- e) **A life of dedicated service-** John 12:26. Don't choose where to serve, let Him choose for you. Prov.27:18

Conclusion: The fruit of the spirit is self control, against which there is no law. I Thess.4:9