



# The Federated Church of Hyannis

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**Reverend Derek L. White, Pastor**

## **Weekly Message from the Pastor and Sermon Notes for November 14, 2021**

Thank you to all who have turned in their pledge cards for this coming year, and those still in the processing of turning them in. A theme throughout our Stewardship Message has been to share equally in the responsibility of the ministry of the church in Jesus' name.

Pastor: Rev. Derek L. White

**Sermon: "Make Me A Steward of Your Treasure, Part 5"** *Rev. Derek L. White*

**Scripture:** Proverbs 3:1-10 (NIV)

"My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. 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."

### **INTRODUCTION**

As a child I hated getting dressed up for church on Sunday morning. We would wake up early and put on clothes that were never comfortable to wear. My father would make us wear suit coats with ties. Perhaps you had a similar experience as a child. I would guess you were told that on Sunday you present your best to the Lord. So wearing your best clothes to church was part of bringing your best before the Lord.

## **PART 1**

Here in Proverbs, we see that we should honor the Lord with our wealth and bring the first fruits of our crop before the Lord. By doing so the Lord blesses us for our faithfulness.

For those who work in the restaurants or in the markets, you know that the best selection happens with the first customer to select produce or meats. The best restaurants always compete to get the first selection of produce. They pay top dollar for the first pick.

We as followers of Jesus must remember the importance of always putting God first in all things. And so there is this tradition of bringing the first fruits of the harvest to the Lord as a way of putting God first in one's life.

## **PART 2**

When I started out in ministry as a youth pastor. I remember one day I sat in a chair in the Pastor's office. The chair broke. Well I got some glue and string and began to repair this wooden chair. The Pastor came in and asked me what I was doing. I explained I broke the chair and I was repairing it. She turned to me and said, "that chair was junk, why else do you think someone donated it to the church?" It occurred to me that no one ever donates brand new furniture to the church, only used furniture. That experience taught me an important lesson. We should offer our best to the Lord, not dump our junk upon the Lord.

## **PART 3**

Many relationships have been badly damaged by passing off junk to others. Would you lend a friend something you knew was broken? Would you give your children food that you knew was expired? Would you offer your car to someone with an empty tank of gas? Would you offer a bed with dirty sheets to a guest? Why would we offer anything less than the best to the Lord?

## **CONCLUSION**

There is a book called "The Five Love Languages" by Gary Chapman. And one of the five love languages is gift giving. Finding the perfect gift for the people we love is one of the ways we communicate our love and appreciation. The people we deeply love we get good gifts for. Imagine if the wisemen showed up at the manger with gift cards.

When we offer our best, we express our love and appreciation. So when it comes to our pledges, it should not be an afterthought. God gives us the very best. Because God so loved the world he offered his first born son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Let us bring our best before the Lord, for it is good and pleasing to do so.**

