

28 03 21

Honour Pt 4 & final– To whom do we not honour?

This is our fourth and final study from the scriptures on the word “honour”. In our previous teaching we established – (1) we are to honour God, (2) we are to honour our father and mother, and (3) we are to render unto everyone their due – honour to whom honour. In this study we establish – (1) we are not to honour fools, (2) he that is of a wicked heart is better than he that honours himself, (3) We are not to receive honour one of another but seek the honour from God.

Our three points established from the scriptures –

1. We are not to honour a fool

“As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool”

(Prov.26: 1).

2. He that is of a wicked heart is better than him that honours himself.

“A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised. He that is despised, and hath a servant, [is] better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread” (Prov.12: 8 & 9).

3. We are not to receive honour one of another but seek the honour from God.

“How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?” (Jn.5: 44).

Illustration

I will never forget coming out of New Testament studies following a lecture by Dr. Chris Marshall (head of New Testament studies, now Professor at the school of Government, posted at Victoria University in Wellington) and feeling wowed by this apparent clear understanding of the New Testament. He spoke of treating the epistles as letters that have two parties – the author and audience, and our job as interpreters of the ancient text was to seek understanding of the purpose of the letters in the historical context in which they were written, and then apply that to today. It all made so much sense to us blind students at the time. I would suggest that throughout his teaching role at BCNZ he was honoured by the students and the teaching body for his research and historical criticism of the NT text.

Then at the beginning of our third year Karen and I were introduced to the truth of the English text of the 1611 Authorised bible, and Chris was exposed as a wolf in sheep’s clothing. Following his exposure he scuttled off to Wellington in an academic role, no doubt teaching worldly students – worldly theories.

Question to think about.

In relation to our study what was the error of – (a) the students and (b) Chris Marshall (outside of the fact that neither had, nor believed the scriptures)?

Answer from the scriptures

(a) The students honoured a fool.

The students were taught commandments and doctrines of men which do not honour God, but honour men, they honour the flesh (Col.2: 22, 23).

(b) Chris Marshall received honour from the students, and not from the Lord, and he appeared to honour himself and NOT God – which is apparent by him now taking the world-honouring title of “Professor”. The Pharisees loved the “greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi” (Matt.23: 7 & 8). But seek NOT the honour from men, for “all ye are brethren” (verse 8), nor honour yourselves, but God!