

Honest Anyway

Years ago in a Southern slave market, an intelligent-looking black man was put up for sale. A prospective buyer asked the young man, "If I buy you, will you be honest?"

With a baffled expression, the youth replied, "I will be honest whether or not you buy me."

We are all familiar with the old expression, "Honesty pays." But it doesn't always pay in a tangible sense. Just because we return money a clerk has mistakenly given us does not mean we will be given a monetary reward for our honesty.

There is, however, an intrinsic reward in being honest, regardless of tangible results. God's Word speaks much of honesty from a pure heart – not seeking advantage, but merely doing what is right because it *is* right.

We live in an age of cheaters and stealers. Tragically, the word *honesty* is almost forgotten in a "me-first" culture.

But God remembers and prizes this word and its practice. As Psalm 18:20 declares: "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath He recompensed me."

The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of the transgressors shall destroy them (Proverbs 11:3)

--Beecher Hunter