

Why Teach Stewardship?

Bay City Baptist Church
Stewardship Week 2012
Sunday Evening, January 29, 2012

Portions from: *Evangelism and Church Growth*, by Elmer Towns



I. S - **STRENGTHEN** (2 Cor. 8:7)

- We teach stewardship to strengthen every believer in the congregation.
- When we teach stewardship, everyone is taught that **everything** belongs to God!
- When believers learn the principle of divine ownership, it is easier to give God His portion.
- Believers are called to be disciples, and a disciple is one who **follows** his Lord!
- And this month we learn how a disciple should use his **money**!
- It is one of the measures of how closely we are following.

II. T - **TRAIN**

A. Training Believers to **Obey** God (Prov. 3:9)

- Little children should be taught to **tithe** their allowance!
- An elderly **widow** with a retirement income or social security needs to be taught to trust God enough to give!
- Young **couples** are trained to put God first.

QUOTE: A Christian cannot become spiritual without being **obedient**. Therefore, a stewardship campaign cannot be viewed as something carnal merely because it involves money. The campaign should be viewed as the highest expression of spiritual ministry in the [church] year. If conducted properly, more people will obey Jesus Christ and follow His Lordship. *Towns*

B. Training Believers about the **Reward** that Comes with Obedience (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

- We have the **JOY** that comes with obeying God.

C. Training Believers that God Can Be **Trusted** (2 Cor. 9:8)

III. E - **EXAMINE** (MY HEART) (Luke 12:34)

QUOTE: It is a time of self-evaluation, commitment to God and potentially a time for **revival**. *Townes*

- It is as simple as this. God is clearly saying that if your **money** is not in the church, your **heart** is not in it either!

IV. W - **WORK** OF GOD (Mt. 6:33)

QUOTE: God created us in His image and likeness. He has given us a good mind, strong wills and the opportunities to make something of our lives for His glory. God now comes and wants us to **use** our gifts and abilities for Him. During a stewardship campaign, all Christians should be reminded that they should return **finances** to God so that the work of God may prosper. *Townes*

V. A - **ACKNOWLEDGE** (Deut. 8:18; Job 1:21; James 1:17)

- The workers in the vineyard were asked for nothing until after **harvest** came in.
- But then they were to demonstrate that they had been productive **stewards**.

QUOTE: Sometimes it seems impossible to thank God enough for all He does for us, but showing Him that in His spirit we will give back whatever we can is one way to **express** our gratitude and show that we **learn** from his example. *Stewardship Technology*

VI. R - **RESPONSIBILITY** (Matt. 21:33-41)

- Believers must be warned of the fact that they will be judged.
- One of the areas of that examination will be stewardship.
- I do not want anyone looking over at me and saying, "Preacher, why didn't you **warn** me about this?"

NOTICE ## THINGS THAT THESE VINEYARD WORKERS REFUSED TO ACCEPT ...

1. They refused to accept the fact that they did not **own** the vineyard!
 2. They refused to accept the fact that they were **accountable** for how they managed the vineyard.
 3. They refused to accept that attacking the owners messengers would not evade their certain **judgment**.
 4. They refused to accept that you cannot fight the **owner** and win!
- Each year we remind ourselves of who **owns** the vineyard.
 - We remember that our homes, our bodies, our investment portfolios are not really **ours**.
 - We remind ourselves that God owns it all and a **reckoning** day is coming.
 - We will be called into account for how we **handled** the resources that God placed under our control!
 - Rather than begrudging that God asks 10%, we should rejoice that He lets us keep 90% of what He has given us!

QUOTE: There are always those who complain and say, "The church is after **money**." We must be careful to deal with the problem of criticism before it turns into the poison of bitterness. When a person is cut and injured, pain is associated with the wound. We never doubt the wisdom of the doctor who inflicts more pain on the already sore area by applying iodine or an antiseptic to the wound. The doctor doesn't do it to hurt needlessly, but to help in the healing process. Without the medication, there would be the risk of infection. Without the teaching on **stewardship**, Christians risk the infection of selfishness, materialism, and worldliness. *Townes*

VII. D - **DEDICATE** (2 Cor. 8:5; 1 Cor. 6:12-20)

- Friends, stewardship is about so much more than **money**.
- As a matter of fact, I would recommend that you do not give until your heart is in it.
- Your habit will be short lived.
- But if you are not giving, I would recommend that you examine your heart.
- Something is wrong.
- Stewardship week is a great time to restore your **fellowship** with God.

