

Stewardship

Luke 12:13-21

The definition of Christian Stewardship is, each believer has been given life, a spiritual gift, and the responsibility to care for those things he or she has been given for God's glory.

Don't Waste Your Life on the Temporal (vv.13-15) It's not a sin to work and gain money in order to further the Kingdom and to care for your family, but in this case, greed was the sin. A disregard for the security of God in order to find security in materialism is dangerous. It's a dangerous trap that many fall into!

Devote to the Worship of Christ Through Your Talents (vv.16-18) This man used his talents for selfish gain and greed instead of for the Kingdom of God. "Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else." - Charles Spurgeon. It's not a sin to have stuff, it's a sin when stuff has us! We can use stuff for God's glory, especially if God has given us a spiritual gifts to use for His Kingdom, for His glory!

Dedicate the Worthiness of Christ Through Your Time (v.19) This individual's time was going to be wasted on Latest Gallup poll statistics say 20% of Americans attend church every week. 40% of Americans attend church every week. 57% of Americans seldom or never attend church. How do you spell love? TIME. Hebrews 10:24-25 states, ***"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."***

Designate the Wealth of Christ Through Your Tithes (v.20) What do I mean by wealth of Christ? Do you trust Christ with your finances? You trust Him with your salvation, your children, your health, your future, but do you trust Him with your finances? Christ has everything, wealth is His! Psalm 50:10 states: ***"For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills."*** If He owns your stuff, your money, don't you believe He will take care of you? In 2 Cor. 9:6-7 Paul is describing the need for the offering for the church in Jerusalem.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." I do not know who gives or who gives what. I like it that way. I do know that ministry cost and that this act of worship to Christ is something that needs to be practiced for ministry to continue. I believe giving should be questioned when or if the ministry seems to use those offerings for unnecessary means, like Jet Air planes, and other unrealistic, un-Kingdom related activities. We have a thorough treasurer, a thorough financial team, and a thorough counting team. The term tithe means 10th or 10% from Malachi 3:8-10 ***"Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse,***

that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” Tithing preceded the Mosaic law, it was affirmed by Jesus Christ, and it was continually practiced by the early church. If you look, and it won’t be hard to find, you’ll find “those” who will bend scripture to deny tithing, those who bend scripture to pervert tithing for selfish gain, but we must be faithful in tithing for the glory of God and His Bride, the Church!

Decide Who You Will Treasure (v.21) C.S. Lewis put it this way: *“The Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought the most of the next...It is in since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you will get neither.”*

Application:

Be on Mission with us...

Grow in Christ, Go for the Gospel, Give for God’s glory

- Time
- Talents
- Tithes

How can we Give for God’s glory?

- Time- Attendance encourages growth.
- Talents- Volunteer your abilities for God’s service.
- Tithes- Through offering in the foyer or on-line at: www.oakhillministry.org
- Menu
- Give