

GRACE STEWARDSHIP

June 26, 2022

FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live, and share Him.

Memory Verse for June: Psalm 31:11-12

Text: 2 Corinthians 8,9

Introduction:

Big Idea: God intends for your life to become a _____ not a cul-de-sac.

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

– C. S. Lewis, Mere **Christianity**

1. Grace stewardship always begins with a profound _____ experience (1)

- a. GRACE at the core is about _____.
- b. Giving is an activity of grace
- c. Where is your treasure? (Matthew 6:21)
- d. Paul's discipleship on the grace of giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
 - i. No pressure on the giver
 - ii. They gave _____
 - iii. They gave personally
 - iv. They gave regularly
 - v. They gave impartially
 - vi. They gave _____

2. The Macedonians believers are examples of Jesus followers who had a grasp of grace stewardship (2-8)

- a. Grace giving is according to our _____ (3)
- b. *Grace giving is done _____ (v. 3).*
- c. *Grace giving is often sacrificial (v. 3).*
- d. *Grace giving is often supplicating (v.4).*
- e. *Grace giving means first giving ourselves to the Lord Jesus (v. 5).*
- f. *Grace giving is a deeply spiritual matter (vv. 6-8).*

3. Jesus is the perfect example of a life that modeled grace stewardship. Jesus is _____! (9)

- a. Jesus was _____
- b. Jesus became poor
- c. Jesus makes the recipients of His grace exceedingly _____.

Truth into Action:

1. Give yourself first to the Lord.
2. Ask God to help you grow in grace.

- Increase your standard of giving before your standard of living
- Strive each year to give more than you did last year

Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

This sermon sought to disciple each of us in the principle of stewardship. The Bible tells us that each of us will be held accountable for how we managed our lives. YOUR DECISIONS THIS WEEK MATTER TO GOD FOREVER.

Warm Up: If you were given a \$1000 to use for anything other than yourself, what would you do with it?

1. The principle of ownership. *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1.* In the beginning of Genesis, God creates everything and puts Adam in the Garden to work it and to take care of it. It is clear that man was created to work and that *work is the stewardship of all of the creation that God has given him.* This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns everything, we are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf.

2. The principle of responsibility. Paul writes to the Corinthian believers, *For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship* (1 Corinthians 9:17). Although God gives us "all things richly to enjoy," nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us. God owns everything; we're responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, What about your responsibilities? Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities.

3. The principle of accountability. Paul helped the Corinthian church understand *it is required of stewards that they be found faithful* (1 Corinthians 4:2). A steward is one who manages the possessions of another. We are all stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us. This is the truth principle taught by the Parable of the Talents. God has entrusted authority over the creation to us and we are not allowed to rule over it as we see fit. We are called to exercise our dominion under the watchful eye of the Creator managing his creation in accord with the principles he has established. Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority. We will all give account to the rightful owner as to how well we managed the things he has entrusted to us.

4. The principle of reward. Paul reminded the church in Colossae, *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ* (Colossians 3:23–24). *As stewards we can expect to be rewarded incompletely in this life, but fully in the next..* Every child of God should long to hear the master say what is recorded for us in Matthew 25:21 *Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.* Everything we do matters to God. We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us.

Now ask yourself:

- Do I look around my life and see "my stuff" or "God's gifts"?
- Are you living your life like an **owner** or **manager**?
- One day each of us will give an accounting of our lives. Why is it helpful to ponder that day in the future, today?

Closing Prayer: Jesus became poor and every Christian has become rich. Father God, help me grow in Christ-likeness so that I can become a faithful manager of my life.