

“STEWARDING GOD’S MERCIFUL GIFT”

Sunday, December 11, 2016

In this series we are placing a special emphasis on service and responsibility—our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.

It is important to keep in mind that the *role* of a steward is to do what their master has called them to do. Their *responsibility* is to be faithful in the process.

1Co 4:2 Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

This call to faithfulness comes from One who is faithful Himself.

1Th 5:24 Faithful *is* **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do *it*.

He is our faithful Master. Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it.

MAKE A COMMITMENT: WILL YOU COMMIT TO DOING WHATEVER GOD WILL SAY TO YOU IN THIS MESSAGE?

† **Stewarding God’s Gift**

Over the course of the next 5 messages we will consider God’s Gift of His Son and how we are to steward this most precious of all gifts. Our challenge: Seek to be a faithful steward of God by *stewarding God’s GIFT*.

I. God’s _____ Gift (Matthew 1:18-25)

John Newton, the famous hymn writer of the beloved hymn, “Amazing Grace” once wrote; “Although my memory’s fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.”

A. I am a Great _____ (Ephesians 2:1-3)

1. Being Spiritually _____ (v. 1)

2. Being Spiritually _____ (v. 2)

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world,...” – This “*course*” or age is the contemporary moral atmosphere and philosophy that is ruled by the “*god of this world*” and dominates the culture in which we live. This world-system is an anti-God culture that opposes God’s glory.

This “*world*” system which is refers to an evil system headed by Satan which consists of twisted values dominated by an anti-God culture.

“...the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:” – This “*spirit*” is the thought process of those in this world which is an active force toward disobedience.

3. Being Spiritually _____ (v. 3a)

“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind;...” – Before coming to Christ, our depraved human nature dominated our conduct which produced extreme selfishness. This selfishness was characterized by pursuing the gratification of our own fleshly desires.

We were no different!

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

1 Peter 4:3 For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness [*uncontrolled desires*], lusts [*intense passion to do evil*], excess of wine [*drunkenness*], revellings [*carousing / orgies*], banquetings [*drinking parties*], and abominable idolatries:

“For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles,...” – Peter draws our attention to believers former way of life. By no means is this list exhaustive but it gives us the ugly picture of the old man of the flesh that we were driven by.

4. Being Spiritually _____ (v. 3b)

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of **God**;

John 3:17-18 For **God** sent not **His Son** into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through **Him** might be saved. **18** He that believeth on **Him** is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten **Son of God**.

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the **Son** hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the **Son** shall not see life; but the wrath of **God** abideth on him.”

Isaiah 53 personalized

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of **God** *is* eternal life through **Jesus Christ** our **Lord**.

B. Christ is a Great _____ (Ephesians 2:4-10)

Matthew 1:21 And she [*Mary*] shall bring forth a **Son**, and thou shalt call **His** name **JESUS**: for **He** shall save **His** people from their sins.

Joh 1:29 The next day John seeth **Jesus** coming unto him, and saith, “Behold the **Lamb** of **God**, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1. The _____ of God (v. 4)

2. The _____ of God (v. 5)

3. The _____ of God (v. 6-7)

4. The _____ of God (v. 8-10)

“unto good works” – this is our purpose. By being “created in Christ Jesus” the result should be that we do “good works.” We don’t do these “good works” in order to get save but because we are saved.

Psalm 103

John Phillips – So we take a point on earth and draw a line vertically into infinity. We also draw a line horizontally into infinity—“so far hath He removed our sins from us.” There is a point on this planet where those two infinite lines intersect—the point is Calvary! We draw all our lines from the cross. The upright of the cross, driven like a stake into the ground, is where we begin our vertical line. We extend it up into infinity. The crossbar of the tree, flung wide as though to embrace the world, is where we begin our horizontal line into infinity. That is how the Lord measures His mercy—in terms of the cross.

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