

“STEWARDING GOD’S MERCY”

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Reminder: 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.**

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

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

Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it. Seek to be a faithful steward of God.

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

† **Stewarding God’s Mercy (Romans 12:1)**

Premise: The perspective we maintain as we go through this life is of utmost importance. *Attitude* leads to *action*. Right thinking leads to right living. In order to live right we must think right. In order to live Godly we must think Godly. Our success in our pursuit of holiness is dependent upon a mind renewed with God’s truth.

I. The _____ of Self in how I Think (Proverbs 23:7)

Rand Hummel – Solomon also knew that although we are not what we think we are, we are what we think.

Our hearts must be bent towards God and in turn our mouths will follow.

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

It is imperative that the greatest influence upon our hearts are Godly influences, namely the Word of God.

II. The _____ Service in How I Think (Romans 12:1)

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, **but by love serve one another.**

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the **Lord**, are changed [*metamorphosis*] into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the **Spirit** of the **Lord**.

John Phillips – The moon looks into the face of the sun and reflects its brightness on a darkened world. Just so, we are to be occupied with the Lord Jesus and reflect His glory in this dark world of sin in which we live.

A. Remember your _____ —“the mercies of God” (v. 1)

Consider Ephesians 2:2-3

Paul paints quite an ugly picture of who we were outside of Christ.

Ephesians 2:4-5 BUT **God, Who** is rich in mercy, for **His** great love wherewith **He** loved us, **5** even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with **Christ**, (by grace ye are saved;)

B. Remember your _____ —“a living sacrifice” (v. 1)

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto **God**, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto **God**.

The way that we serve God reflects our view of His mercy.

When we consider the worship that we are offering up to God, let us ask ourselves a few questions:

1. Is it _____?

2. Is it _____?

3. Is it _____?

Q: Does the type of worship that I offer to God a logical response to all that He has done for me?

Remember Who has saved you. Remember Who has called you to be like Him. Remember what He did for you. Remember God's mercy.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live *is* **Christ**, and to die *is* gain.

Paul's goal for us in v. 1 is that we would be *motivated* by "*the mercies of God*" to "*present*" ourselves as a willing, "*living sacrifice*" in our worship and that our worship would be "*holy*," "*acceptable*" and "*reasonable service*" to God—that our worship would be a "thought through" kind of worship where Christ is the focus and not the Christian. Paul's goal for each of us is that we are **intentional** in the way in which we worship the Lord.

C. Resist the _____—"be not conformed" (v. 2)

Failing to daily renew our minds is to choose to be conformed to this world.

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the **Lord**, and not unto men;

Cf. Galatians 1:4

1 Peter 1:14-15 As obedient children, not fashioning [*conforming*] yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: **15** But as **He** which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of **Him** that created him:

Until we begin the process of surrendering ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in renewing our mind we will fall short of understanding and living out God's "*good, and acceptable, and perfect will.*"

What is my next step?

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