

God's Call for Christian Stewardship

Right! Christian Stewardship is not something that humans initiated, it is God's call.

What then is Stewardship? The Webster's Dictionary describes the word "Steward" as follows: "A person entrusted with the management of estates or affairs not his own; an administrator". Christians are entrusted with the management of what is God's. Christian Stewardship is looking after what is God's. Some people think that stewardship is about money. How sad would it be if it were. Here is the good news; It is not! But it includes money because that too is God's. A Christian Steward offers the whole of their life to God; this is an important part of being a follower of Christ. It is a way of life, not an "optional extra" for Christians.

In Deuteronomy 16:15 we read: *For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands and your joy will be complete.* If we live in obedience to God's will God blesses us not only with money but he blesses us wholly. And verse 17 reads: *Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.*

"Stewardship is as much about how we use our time (at work and leisure) as about what we can bring to God's service. It is an ongoing proc-

ess, very much part of our Christian growth and development, like learning a trade or profession which we hone and develop."

Are we forced in living our lives as good stewards? We are not. We are to "*do everything without complaining or arguing...*" (Phil.2:14). Stewardship is not about what we should do, but about our willingness, to serving God and His church with joy and love. This we do with the gifts (the talents) that God has given us, as we read in 1 Peter 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.* Do we know that as Christians we are called to live a life of good stewardship? Are we faithful stewards of the gifts of God: the creation, our bodies, our talents, our time, our money—it all belongs to God, given to us to manage. Do we faithfully give to God what belongs to God? Do we re-examine our commitment from time to time?

The last Sunday in April we will launch the Stewardship Program and the month of May will be totally dedicated to it. It will be a very exiting month with lots of surprises. Please pray for God's blessings upon this. When you pray we know that this program has your blessings too. We can all help

make this program a great success by being committed participants. Christ, in obedience to the will of His Father offered Himself to save the world. How committed are we to serve Him? As we pray let us remember this prayer:

*Merciful Father,
We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.*

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Pr.Lucretia M van Ommereen-Tabbert

"DO
EVERYTHING
WITHOUT
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"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7).

**I AM
THE RESURRECTION
AND THE
LIFE**