

Stewardship Bible Study, Nov 1st & 8th

Nov 1: Reluctance Is Nothing New

1. What is Stewardship? What comes to mind when you think of a steward?

2. What does stewardship mean to Christians?
 - a. Psalm 24:1-2, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.”
 - b. Genesis 1:28, 2:15 “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”
 - c. Matthew 28:19-20, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

3. With our tasking coming from the Creator Himself, and the promise that Jesus Christ will be with us, we should have people lining up out the door waiting to serve in any and every capacity and our offering plates should be overflowing with mission offerings! Sadly, this is not the case. Why not?
 - a. Romans 7:14-25
 - b. Matthew 26:41b, “The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

4. Reluctance has been around since the beginning of time – literally! The Bible is full of instances where God’s servants are initially reluctant to serve or doubt they are making a difference.
 - a. Moses
 - i. Exodus 3:7-14, 4:1-16.
 - b. Gideon
 - i. Judges 6:11-22
 - c. Jonah
 - i. Jonah 1:1-3

5. **Where does reluctance come from?**
 - a. **A baseball bat and ball together cost \$1.10. The bat costs one dollar more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?**

 - b. **How does this apply to reluctance in Christian stewardship?**
 - i. **Proverbs 29:20, “Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”**
 - ii. **Proverbs 18:13, “He who answers before listening – that is his folly and his shame.”**

 - c. **What does Jesus tell us about worrying?**
 - i. **Matthew 6:25-34**

6. **How can we overcome our reluctance?**
 - a. **Romans 7:24-25, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!”**
 - b. **1 John 2:15-17, “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”**
 - c. **Matthew 6:33, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”**

Nov 8: Opportunitieis To Serve and the Blessings That Follow

- 1. Psalm 24 says, “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” God obviously does not need our offerings, so why do we do it?**
 - a. Psalm 145:15-21**
 - b. Matthew 6:19-20, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”**
 - c. Matthew 28:19-20, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

- 2. How much should I give?**
 - a. 2 Corinthians 9:7, “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”**
 - b. Luke 21:1-4, “As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts in into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ‘I tell you the truth,’ he said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.’”**

- 3. What are some other ways you can serve?**
 - a. Ephesians 4:11-13, “It was he go gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”**
 - b. 1 Corinthians 12:27-28, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.”**

- c. Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”**

- 4. Even though we look to serve God out of thanksgiving for the blessings He gives us, He promises to continue to bless us for serving Him. How does He bless us, both earthly and spiritually?**
 - a. Matthew 6:33, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”**
 - b. 2 Corinthians 9:8, “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”**

- 5. What are some of the blessings we receive through serving?**
 - a. Matthew 26:41b, “The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”**