

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – October 3, 2010

The Life In Between

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.” Titus 2:11-14

If you have been around the organized visible church for awhile when you hear the term “stewardship” you probably think about money. Giving as a response to the Gospel is certainly a privilege and the Bible many things to say about giving to the Lord’s work out of the abundance which He has entrusted to us. However, Biblical stewardship is much more than a discussion about how much money we need or what is a good use of the wealth we have been given. Biblical stewardship deals with every aspect of a Christian’s life. The Lord teaches us that stewardship is about who we are for who we are motivates us to accomplish what we do.

We are all guilty of talking about the things that belong to us...the things we have worked for and are due to us. But remember, even from the beginning this is not the case. God put Adam and Eve in the garden to tend it...not to own it. In fact, God held back from them one thing of that which belonged to Him—the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—a reminder that all things belong to Him. We need to be reminded that everything belongs to God and that each Christian is privileged to have the high honor and position of steward in His kingdom. It is not really our church, or our home, or our automobile. God teaches us in the Psalms that He is the true owner of all things with the simple passage: “The cattle on a thousand hills are mine”, says the Lord. It pleases God to give us good things to enjoy just as fathers give good things to their children. In other words, it is not wrong for us to have received such wealth as we have entrusted to us. The question becomes are we using it in the manner

which reflects our responsibility for the things that belong to God? Are we using His things to accomplish His objectives and further His purpose? Jesus warns us: “You cannot serve both God and mammon”. Truly, “the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.”

The passage above from Titus is the historical Epistle Lesson for Christmas Day because it talks about the appearance of salvation among us, that is the incarnation of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It also talks about His coming again. We are living in the life in between those two events. During the time we are here we are to be the special people of God purchased by His sacrifice which motivates us to be zealous for good works. We are to deny the ungodliness and the lusts of the world and live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. How are you doing with that? Not so good? Me either! How self-centered our flesh truly is. How great the forgiving love of Christ is in the Gospel. If we are to be true stewards it is in the Gospel we must begin. Founded upon Christ’s love, we are entrusted with His riches and His work until He shall return. May God make us true stewards of His grace in Christ Jesus.

- Remember: The greatest treasure God has entrusted to us is His Word and Sacraments. Don’t ignore the stewardship...use the Word and Sacraments faithfully.
- Remember: Stewardship deals with who you are not primarily what you do! Ask God in your prayers to make you a true steward of all He has given that you may have joy in the privilege He has given you.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don’t wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged 2010