



STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE
Sunday, March 10, 2024

Today's message will focus on a responsibility we have as believers: Stewarding.

As believers in Christ, we have been freely given and entrusted with many gifts and abilities from God. These may include our time, talents, finances, relationships, and even our salvation. As good stewards, it is our responsibility to use these blessings in a way that honors God and advances His kingdom.

A steward is someone who manages and oversees that which belongs to someone else.

Stewardship is our responsible management and use of the blessings entrusted to us by God—is a demonstration of our acknowledgment of God's sovereignty, or supreme authority, over all aspects of our lives. It's what should motivate us to action, doing deeds that manifest our belief in Him.

As the Apostle Paul put it, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). So it is from God that we have received our lives and everything in it for which we are responsible. God desire of us to be stewards of our gifts.

We are all stewards. We've all been given something that doesn't belong to us.

Stewardship is the proper use and care of that which belongs to God. And while we often speak of things as "ours," the truth is that all that we have and all we are belongs to God.

God is the owner of all things

Genesis 1: 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1: 28

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God created all things and has all rights of ownership over all things. God entrusted his creation to man to bring it in his subjection to rule and oversee all that God created. In other terms, God is the owner and man is the overseer, the manager, the steward.



Our lives in totality belongs to Christ:

Stewardship is not confined or limited to just one area of our lives but encompasses every aspect. This includes our time, talents, finances, relationships, possessions, and opportunities and also our spiritual gifts. We view our entire lives through the lens of stewardship, recognizing that every resource and blessing we have is the grace of God.

Thus, everything we own and have ultimately belongs to God. God is the rightful owner and we are accountable to Him for how we use what He has entrusted to us.

PURPOSE OF STEWARDSHIP

1. To bring God glory

Matthew 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Our actions as stewards should reflect the character of God and draw attention to His goodness and glory. By faithfully stewarding our resources and living in accordance with God's way, we become a testimony to His grace and bring honor and glory to His name

For example: we experience the forgiveness of God so that we can extend forgiveness to others when we are wronged. When we are channels of forgiveness, we manifest God's grace to the offender- this brings God glory.

2. To serve others and advance the Kingdom of God

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

We as believers are responsible to use every gift that we have received from God to serve others faithfully. God did not design gifts for selfish use but the good or profit of all.

TO EACH ONE: God has spiritually gifted each and every follower of Christ. Every one of us has been blessed with God-given talents. God gives gifts to each believer and leaves no one out. Each believer has a supernatural capacity to serve the church.

The Greek word for "gift" reveals these are spiritual gifts or reflections of God's "grace". Each person has received one or more spiritual gifts from God. A spiritual gift is a talent or ability empowered by the Holy Spirit and able to be used in the ministry of the church.



Spiritual "gifts" help God's people to serve and love one another and continue the work of spreading the gospel.

What we've all been given is a gift from God and we have to be careful how we build upon it.

Example: When we operate in the gifts of the Spirit- healing, prophecy, word of wisdom we manifest the power of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 3: 9-10

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

Paul describes stewardship as being God's co workers. Being co-workers with God means that we work together as a unit to achieve what God desires. It means that we co-operate with God to expand His kingdom. We work together to fulfil God's agenda and not our own.

3. For an eternal inheritance

Colossians 3: 23- 24

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving"

Revelation 22:12

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

The Bible mentions rewards that await the believer who serves the Lord faithfully.

Paul encourages that God has an eternal reward for those who are motivated to serve Christ.

When we live sacrificially for Jesus' sake or serve Him by serving the body of Christ, we store up treasures in heaven. Even seemingly small acts of service do not go unnoticed by God

The Lord will be faithful to reward us for the service we give Him (Hebrews 6:10). Our ministries may differ, but the Lord we serve is the same.



STEWARDING GOD'S GRACE IS:

An act of worship

1 Corinthians 10:31

...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Stewarding God's grace is an act of worship—a way of honoring and glorifying God by faithfully living out the implications of His grace in our lives. By aligning our actions with the values and teachings of grace, we demonstrate our reverence and devotion to God, acknowledging Him as the source of all grace and seeking to reflect His character in all that we do.

In the New Testament, we see the life of Joseph. No matter where he was - at Potipher's house, in the prison or in Pharaoh's palace, he honored God by giving his best and thus demonstrated who God was in his life. Joseph demonstrated stewardship through his responsible management of resources, integrity, forgiveness, and leadership. Each of these actions can be seen as acts of worship as Joseph honored God by faithfully fulfilling the duties and responsibilities entrusted to him, and by living according to God.

A sacrifice

Paul dedicated his life to serving God and spreading the gospel, despite facing numerous challenges and hardships. He endured persecution, imprisonment, beatings, shipwrecks, and other trials for the sake of Christ and His kingdom (2 Corinthians 11:23-28). We see Paul's willingness to sacrifice his own comfort and safety for the sake of the gospel.

The ultimate demonstration of Jesus' stewardship is revealed to us in His selfless sacrifice on the cross.

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The cross represents the ultimate act of being a good steward, as Jesus willingly offers himself for the redemption of humanity. Believers are called to imitate this sacrificial love, recognising the responsibility to steward their lives in a manner that aligns with the transformative power of the cross, and share the life-saving message of the gospel.



Pleases God

1 Thessalonians 2: 4

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

Stewards are called to prioritize pleasing God over seeking the approval of people. This means that our primary focus is to focus on what we are entrusted with and to faithfully fulfil our stewardship responsibilities according to God's standards, even if it leads to opposition from the world.

Requires Discipline

1 Corinthians 9:25(TPT)

A true athlete will be disciplined in every respect, practicing constant self-control in order to win a laurel wreath that quickly withers. But we run our race to win a victor's crown that will last forever.

The discipline to steward our resources in an intentional way must be cultivated. This verse draws a parallel between the discipline required for athletes to compete in games and the discipline required for believers to faithfully steward their resources for the sake of the eternal reward promised by God.

Stewardship requires discipline because there are constant demands on our resources. Without discipline, our efforts to invest our time, gifts, and finances in spreading the gospel can easily be derailed by competing priorities and impulsive decisions, leading to inconsistency or neglect.

One of the classic passages on stewardship is Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27). In it, the master rewards those who steward well the resources he committed to their care, and he punishes those who do not. Those stewards whom God rewarded as faithful were intentional about using the Master's resources for His purposes. God is pleased with disciplined, not careless, stewardship of that which belongs to Him.

For instance, if we don't prioritize a God-centered use of our time, it becomes challenging to maintain regular habits such as prayer and studying Scripture.

What does disciplined stewardship look like? There are countless examples,

- such as scheduling time to meet with God , to meditate on scripture and to pray as individuals and family



- using your spiritual gifts to serve God and the gospel in church.
- designating a portion of money for the church each month before paying other bills

OUR GREATEST CALL TO STEWARDSHIP IS TO STEWARD THE GOSPEL:

Colossians 1: 24- 29

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Col 1:29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Paul gives us insight into a critical matter we are to be stewarding

Vs 24 Paul expresses joy in his suffering for the sake of the church, emphasizing his commitment to serve the body of Christ despite the hardships he faces. This illustrates the sacrificial aspect of stewardship – the willingness to endure difficulties and make personal sacrifices for the greater good of the church and the spread of the Gospel.

Vs 25 Paul acknowledges that he serves as a steward entrusted with a specific commission from God: to present the word of God in its fullness. This emphasizes the steward's role as a custodian of God's truth, entrusted with the responsibility to faithfully proclaim and teach it.

Vs 26 Paul refers to the revelation of the Gospel, which was once hidden but has now been revealed to God's people. As a steward, Paul recognizes the privilege and responsibility of sharing this revelation with others, ensuring that the mystery of God's plan for salvation is made known to all.



Vs 27 Paul highlights the essence of the Gospel message – the mystery of Christ dwelling in believers, offering the hope of glory. As a steward, Paul's task is to proclaim this message to both Jews and Gentiles, ensuring that all people have the opportunity to partake in the riches of God's grace.

Vs 28 Paul emphasizes his commitment to proclaiming Christ, admonishing and teaching others with wisdom to help them grow and mature in their faith. This underscores the steward's responsibility to nurture and disciple believers, guiding them towards spiritual maturity and completeness in Christ.

Vs 29 Paul acknowledges that his ability to fulfill his stewardship role comes from the strength and power of Christ working within him. This emphasizes the reliance of stewards on God's grace and empowerment to carry out their tasks effectively.

In summary, Colossians 1:24-29 emphasizes the stewardship of Paul in faithfully serving and proclaiming the Gospel, making known the mystery of Christ to all people, and nurturing believers towards spiritual maturity. It underscores the sacrificial commitment, responsibility, and reliance on God's grace that characterize the stewardship of the Gospel.

We are to recognize that as a believer, each of us are stewards of the mysteries of God. This means faithfully living out and proclaiming the truths of God's Word in your own life and sharing them with others through your words and actions.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE
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There is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: Colossians 1: 24-29; 1 Corinthians 9: 25; 1 Thessalonians 2: 4; Mark 10: 45; Colossians 3: 23- 24; 1 Corinthians 3: 9-10; 1 Peter 4: 10; Mathew 5: 16

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

- 1. Reflect on the talents and abilities you possess. How do you perceive these as gifts from God to be used for His glory?*
- 2. What are some practical ways that we can demonstrate stewardship of God's grace in our daily lives?*



3. How has stewarding the Gospel impacted your own faith journey? What lessons or insights have you gained from sharing the Gospel message?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



Stewards of God's Grace Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this simple message we are reminded that healing and shalom for our bodies and minds were provided through the Cross of Jesus Christ. The work has been completed. We receive by faith, what the Lord Jesus provided for us through the Cross.

KEYWORDS

Stewards of God's grace, stewardship, stewarding the Gospel, faithfully stewarding, gifts, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.



Stewards of God's Grace
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886)