

Stewards of the Gospel

In this month's Newsletter Article, I shared that from November 10th- 24th we are undertaking an Intentional Stewardship Campaign. Psalm 37:5 declares, "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." Ultimately, that's what we're about in this campaign: Intentionally commit the way we handle our resources to the Lord by learning his Word, being obedient in response, and trusting in him to act.

In this article, we're going to focus on what it means to be a Steward of the Gospel. Describing himself and his fellow ministers to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul writes, "**1 Corinthians 4:1** This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and **stewards of the mysteries of God.**" The mysteries of God that Paul is speaking of is nothing other than the Gospel that saves. Get this, what's true of Paul is true of all baptized believers. Though it may look different, we are all stewards of the Gospel that we have received.

Continuing, in the next verse, Paul fleshes this out a bit more writing: "**4:2** it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." To say it another way, the only standard for our stewardship of the Gospel is trustworthiness. This said, we are faithful in this task when it aligns with Jesus' purposes. What's his purposes? In Jesus' own words, "**Matthew 28:19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Simply put, we are faithful stewards of the Gospel when we bring it into every part of our lives ("Go") for the purpose of sharing it with others ("make disciples of all nations").

If we take this seriously, it will eventually impact the way we manage our money. This is because the ultimate purpose of every gift we receive, including our financial ones, is to serve the stewardship of the Gospel—i.e. "making disciples of all nations." Paraphrasing another author, "the world sees Jesus" through the way you steward your money for the gospel.

In response to these truths, take some time reflecting honest reflecting alone and with someone else the questions below. May God continue to bless you as you continue to intentionally commit the way you handle your resources to the Lord by learning his Word, being obedient in response, and trusting in him to act.

- *Finish this sentence: "My ultimate financial goal is _____"*
- *What would have to change in your life for your ultimate financial goal to serve the stewardship of the Gospel by helping to make "disciples of all nations?"*
- *What specific actions could you take in the coming year to increase your giving to God's mission?*

PRAY: Heavenly Father, as you entrusted the Gospel of Jesus Christ to your servant Paul, so you have entrusted it to me. I admit that I have not always been faithful in my stewardship of the Gospel. I have been more worried about my comfort and my legacy than the extension of the Gospel. Lead me to see and use the gifts You have entrusted to me for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Amen.