

Assignment Title: Reading Report

Stewardship and the Kingdom of God / Report by Dr. Ronald Walborn and Dr. Frank Chan

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Course Title: Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry  
Course Number: SF505  
Semester & Year: Fall 2021  
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Date Submitted: November 21, 2021

This book is a well-written biblical account on the subject of stewardship. It commenced with a statement about a stewardship crisis that exists within the administration of numerous churches. "The time has come for The Christian Missionary Alliance to revisit the meaning of biblical stewardship, to relearn the principles that guide our earnings, spending, savings, and giving, and to recommit ourselves as men and women devoted to radical obedience"<sup>1</sup>. The authors stated, "Any discussion of stewardship must therefore begin with a healthy understanding of kingdom discipleship. We must resist our tendency to limit our concept of stewardship to matters of money and finance because biblical stewardship encompasses far more: it means coming fully under the reign of God in every area of our lives. A.B. Simpson, in his article, "The grace of giving," describes this wonderful connection between Kingdom discipleship and stewardship"<sup>2</sup>.

Chapter one gives us a clear biblical definition of stewardship. Examples are presented both from the Old Testament and the New Testament teachings—the standard of Joseph in Potiphar's house, later the home of Pharaoh, and then the Nation of Egypt. I like the illustration of Galatians 3:24 describing the slave as the one responsible for getting the children to school. The chapter went on to show the Hebrew concept of stewardship which begins and ends with God—they were to rule for God. Stewardship began with Adam and Eve given the responsibility of dominion over the creation. "Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines a steward as "One employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns (as the supervision of servants, collection of rents and keeping of accounts)"<sup>3</sup>. I believe this was the most incredible job offer ever. The authors stated, "The concepts of stewardship underlay laws concerning the Year

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<sup>1</sup> Ronald Walborn & Frank Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God* (Colorado Springs, CO: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001), 1

<sup>2</sup> Walborn & Chan, 3.

<sup>3</sup> Walborn & Chan, 7.

of Jubilee”<sup>4</sup>—found in Leviticus 25. The authors believe Psalms 24:1-2 is a reminder of stewardship responsibility from the people of God. There are three principles cited for the principle of stewardship in the Old Testament:

- God is the owner of everything.
- God's covenant people are held responsible for their management of God's resources.
- Giving is a worshipful response to God's ownership of all things.

The authors cited that the teachings of Jesus on the parable of the faithful and unfaithful servant continues the theology of God's ownership found in the Old Testament<sup>5</sup>. Thus, the first chapter ends with the principles of stewardship, illustrating the prayer of David in 1Chronicles 29:14-16.

As stewards, we are entrusted with goods to care for as part of Kingdom discipleship until He returns. Earthly resources can be used for eternal purposes. Our stewardship must serve not our purposes but the purposes of the Master Jesus Christ. As stewards, we need a balanced picture of hardship. We will be held accountable for our stewardship, and our stewardship embraces the spiritual and the material. The reading of this book interacts well with my present ministry context. I believe the foundation of my ministry is stewardship. That is why I am dedicated to what I do.

Chapter two provides information on practical directives on four related issues. Some are:

### 1. **Spiritual warfare.**

"Why are Christians resistant to the issues of stewardship? Why do we not live as Jesus taught us to live? Two possible answers to these questions are hard-heartedness (we know what God says

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<sup>4</sup> Walborn & Chan, 9.

<sup>5</sup> Walborn & Chan, 11.

and don't care) and ignorance (we don't know because we haven't been taught)"<sup>6</sup>. There will always be spiritual warfare with the believer to prevent us from doing what is right and pleasing to God. We have the spirit of competition, pride, and possession that creates havoc in the church today.

## 2. **The health and wealth gospel**

The gospel of health and wealth has destroyed many Christians over the last twenty-five years in this country. I believe we have these false teachings because the genuine revelation of God is counterfeited, and you cannot falsify or imitate something that does not exist.

## 3. **The Spirit of the tithe**

The authors correctly stated that "the tithe was a token symbol affirming that the whole belonged to God. Viewed this way, the amount or percentage given is not the issue with God. Rather, it is the spirit of the heart behind the gift."<sup>7</sup> But based on its presentation in our churches it is being resented.

The book has given an excellent biblical outline of stewardship. There's nothing to disagree with. But, as a student, I learned much more in the classroom than someone who read this short book. We studied time management, how we should focus our time on doing the will of God. God has given us all the time we need to accomplish everything He has planned for us to do. We should establish measurable goals, know how we spend our time, and identify and eliminate time wasters, such as the television, phone, travel, and internet. I would recommend adding a chapter in this book to address some of these important topics that are a part of the stewardship principle. Suffice to say, I was once a part of a church group that taught stewardship the first week of every year, and the only topic was offerings. This book shows me that I am on

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<sup>6</sup> Walborn & Chan, 19.

<sup>7</sup> Walborn & Chan, 28.

the right path with my worldview on the subject of stewardship. My take-aways from the book are:

1. God is the owner of everything.
2. God's covenant people have a responsibility.
3. Do not ignore spiritual warfare is ever-present.

In the book *Work Matters*, the author stated, "If you are wrestling with job contentment, there is nothing wrong with praying about and seeking another job that perhaps would be a better vocational fit. However, I believe that our present vocational stewardship ought to be our primary focus of faithfulness. Perhaps God will transplant us to a new workplace, but it is important that we bloom where we are presently planted."<sup>8</sup> He also mentioned that "The Genesis writer wants us to grasp the unique place of human beings in creation. We observe this uniqueness in two foundational ways. First, humans are designed by God to exercise proper dominion over creation, which is a divinely delegated to the stewardship role"<sup>9</sup>. Also, "Humankind, the crown of creation, was created for the glory of God and entrusted with remarkable stewardship exercising dominion over the earth. A vital aspect of this stewardship is the essential work not only of tending things and making things but also of cultivating and creating culture"<sup>10</sup>.

Charles U. Wagner, in his book, *The Pastor his Life and Work*, wrote concerning stewardship: the pastor should start in his office and should group his daily work into five categories: important and urgent, important but not urgent, urgent but not important, busy work,

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<sup>8</sup> Tom Nelson, *Work Matters* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011), 181.

<sup>9</sup> Nelson, 21.

<sup>10</sup> Nelson, 25.

and wasted time. He noted that the pastor spends much of his time in busy work.<sup>11</sup>He provided the following principles to avoid wasting time:

- Planning your day
- Identify time-wasters
- Avoid procrastination
- Delegate

Jesus is our most excellent example of stewardship. I came not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. I delight to do my Father's will. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do (New King James Version, St John 17:4). Jesus' teaching magnifies the importance of stewardship by using parables to emphasize accountability (Luke 16:1-2, 19:22-27) and emphasizing each individual's responsibility (Luke 12:48 and Matthew 12:36), and the apostles continued teaching (Romans 14:12; 1 Peter 4:4-5).

## Bibliography

Nelson, Tom. *Work Matters*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.

Wagner, Charles. *The Pastor His Life and Work*. Schaumburg: Regular Baptist Press, 1976.

Walborn, Ronald and Frank Chan. *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*. Colorado Springs: Office of Church Stewardship the Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001.

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<sup>11</sup> Charles Wagner, *The Pastor His Life and Work* (Schaumburg, IL: Regular Baptist Press, 1976), 182



With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely 100%

Quickly but Completely \_\_\_\_\_%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely \_\_\_\_\_%

Quickly and NOT Completely \_\_\_\_\_%

Not at all

Signed: M. Nelson