

Assignment Title: Reading Report IV Stewardship

Name of Book: Stewardship and The Kingdom of God, by Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan

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Summary

The authors Dr. Walborn and Dr. Chan addressed the topic of stewardship, what it means, and how it impacts the lives of believers and the body of Christ at large. Good stewardship will result in financial Freedom and accomplished goals, yet the authors stated that many Christians and Churches struggle Financially. Some Christians according to the authors are unable to properly fund their ministries and accomplish goals. The role of the church is to raise up good stewards. According to the authors, biblical stewardship comes with a set of principles that guides, our earning, spending, giving, and saving. Stewardship is not just about money, stewardship speaks to every aspect of our life, and begins with God and ends with God. God instilled stewardship from the beginning, in Genesis when he gave Adam and Eve dominion over the creation. Adam was said to have named all the animals and Eve as they were brought to him. The author further stated that if there is to be a conversation about stewardship it must start with a good understanding of 'kingdom discipleship.

Interaction and Critique

In my world view as a believer, I recognized that being a good steward in the kingdom of God is equally important as being good Stewards in our homes. I can identify with the trend of today's worldview of discipleship, where we are busy caught up in our own schedules and lifestyle that carrying the cross seems like a burden. According to the authors, "we have preached a bloodless cross that has robbed Christianity of its power, and has turned the biblical teaching of stewardship into a task most preachers would rather avoid." (Walborn and Chan 2001, pg.1). A notable example was found in Matthew 8: 19 – 22¹, one disciple decided to take

¹ ¹⁹ Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."²⁰ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."²¹ Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."²² But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." (NIV)

up his cross and follow Jesus unconditionally, and another took up the cross with a condition, like many today (Walborn and Chan 2001, pg. 13).

The reading has brought me a fresh revelation on the whole aspect of what it means to be a good steward in the kingdom of God. The authors drew my attention to giving in a deeper and more profound way, and also the need to stay out of debt (Walborn and Chan 2001, pg. 36). I knew that tithing is part of our Godly responsibility, therefore we are encouraged to give faithfully, cheerfully, wisely, and not seeking recognition (Walborn and Chan 2001, pg.31-32). Our gifts and talents, our finances, our lifestyles, our entire beings all belongs to the Lord and we have the responsibility to manage it and manage it well. The authors stated that “Good stewardship begins with the recognition that God is the owner of all things, we can’t give to God what is already His, but we could and should submit to his ownership.” (Walborn and Chan 2001, pg.13).

“We will never get free from the grip of Mammon or debt until we learn and practice the spiritual disciplines of contentment and simplicity.” (Walborn and Chan 2001, pg.36). This book will impact my theology and ministry in a positive way that will change the trajectory of how and what I teach in the body of Christ. The inspiration of Stewardship and the Kingdom of God establishes a pericope that will help me to witness life changing results in my life and the lives of believers. I will endeavor to bear fruits and increase, or multiply that which God has entrusted to me, as stated by the authors. The principles highlighted in this book will help to guide the way forward, especially in engaging the enemy and learning how to break free from wrong mindsets that stifles our progress.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one): Thoroughly and Entirely ✓ %

Signed: Maylene Christiani

Bibliography

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