

Assignment Title: Stewardship and The Kingdom of God Reading Report

Stewardship and The Kingdom of God by Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan

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Course Title: Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry  
Course Number: SF505  
Semester & Year: Spring 2023  
Professor: Dr. Ronald Walborn  
Date Submitted: 3/28/2023

This short book was about what Stewardship is and how we can steward what God has entrusted to us. The first half of the book focuses on what Stewardship is and some of the main principles of stewardship that are seen in the Old Testament and the New Testament. According to Walborn and Chan, “a steward is someone who takes care of someone else’s property.”<sup>1</sup> Therefore, Biblical Stewardship is about how we as humans steward the property that God has entrusted to us. The second half of the book speaks about four related issues to stewardship and some practical ways we can be good stewards of God’s gifts. The four related issues are spiritual warfare, the health and wealth gospel, the spirit of the tithe, and the stranglehold of debt. The authors clearly lay out how these issues relate to us and how we can steward what we have. They do so by discussing both sides of the issues and showing how the Bible speaks into these areas.

According to Walborn and Chan, “God is the owner of everything.”<sup>2</sup> While I would say that this principle is part of my worldview, I often live as if it is not. This plays out a lot in the amount I am willing to give to others or other kingdom causes. If I really believed that God was the owner of everything I would be far more open-handed than I am with my finances. It is clear to me that I grip tightly onto what I have because I believe that I earned it with my hard efforts. I believe that I am the owner of what I have because it is in my bank account and I worked at a job for it. The idea that I am only taking care of God’s resources and property is what I would claim to be true, but it is clear I don’t live as if that was the case. Another thing that challenged my worldview is that according to Walborn and Chan, “the judgment for poor stewardship will not result in the loss of salvation, but there will still be loss.”<sup>3</sup> The idea that we would still experience some sort of judgment for our stewardship when Jesus comes back is foreign to me. I

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1 Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God* (Colorado Springs, CO: Office of Church Stewardship, The Christian and Missionary Alliance 2001), 7.

2 Walborn and Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, 10.

3 Walborn and Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, 16.

haven't ever really been exposed to teaching on it or studied it. In my view of the Gospel, it seems like this wouldn't be true. I have heard about eternal rewards for what you do on earth, but that seems like a works-based gospel. However, understanding that salvation is what we receive by faith, then it could make sense that anything else we receive could be based on how we steward what God gives us post-salvation. This is definitely something I want to think about and research more. It definitely challenged my worldview and my theology.

One thing I really agreed with was the discussion on the health and wealth gospel and the balance with which the authors talked about it. According to Walborn and Chan, "our misgivings about the health-and-wealth gospel must not lead us to devalue scriptural passages that show God's desire is to bless and even prosper His children."<sup>4</sup> It is really easy to swing the pendulum one way or the other. Either we talk about God prospering those who obey Him, or we talk about how God doesn't care about our physical needs here on earth. We must be balanced in our views and recognize that God is a good God who likes to give good gifts to His children, but that doesn't automatically mean we will be rich and secure here on earth.

This book will help me to evaluate my personal finances and my current ministry and to try to recognize ways in which I am stewarding what God has given me well, and ways where I am stewarding what God has given me poorly. Stewardship is vitally important, and I want to steward what God has given me well.

### **Bibliography**

Walborn, Ronald and Chan, Frank. *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God* Colorado Springs,

Colorado: Office of Church Stewardship, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001.

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<sup>4</sup> Walborn and Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, 24.

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: Nathan Northcutt