

Reading Report

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

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Summary

This article is started off with the introduction of a crisis the authors found in Christianity today and how Christians today seem to have lost the reverence for God their forefathers used to have. In the introduction, the authors point out humanity's need for God, the significance of repentance, God's ownership over everything, and the beauty of simplicity. The first part of the reading gives a definition of stewardship, compares the concept of stewardship portrayed in the books of the Old and New Testament, and seven principles of stewardship. The second part the authors teach with much of both depth and practicality on four issues relating to stewardship.

Interaction and Critique

In my anticipated ministry context, I will be serving people who have lost their homes due to unfortunate consequences and/or situations. These people were either born with nothing in a country where people have everything or lost everything they built their life around because of unforeseen and/ or unfortunate circumstances. This reading is one I will truly go back to again and again and I'm sure I will be humbled every time. This reading will interact with my anticipated ministry because of the situations that the people are probably in. However, it would be after they have been saved and have claimed Jesus Christ as their Lord. They would ask me "What has God given me?" I would tell them I don't know, but sometimes only they themselves can see what God has entrusted to them more than I can.

Walborn and Chan give a summary of "the Old Testament teaching on stewardship"¹ and the one phrase that stands out to me is when they say "giving is a worshipful response to God's ownership of all things." I don't think I ever saw giving this way. Giving was always something that I did because it was something that I had to do. If I'm being really vulnerable, I'd say it was

¹ Walborn and Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, (Colorado: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001), 10.

also because it made me seem generous. I thought I was a generous person, but if I think about how I give to my family, I don't think they would say the same. Only recently I began putting my worth in Christ Jesus, so before this time, I only gave because it pleased my friends when I did. When my parents ask for something or my brother asks for something, anger rises within me. I pray that the Lord keeps changing my perspective on giving, that I give and I keep giving as worship unto God and to please Him and Him alone. Walborn and Chan also quote Richard Foster saying "We need instruction on how to possess money without being possessed by money."² When I read this, I was reminded of a time when my mother ripped apart my posters of K-pop idols that I really adored at that time. I remember screaming and crying and yelling at her how she could do this to me. Frankly, I don't even remember what the name of the group is at this moment. The moment our idols are ripped apart, it reveals to us how much we depended on them without even realizing. I didn't know that even attachment to anything big or little can affect me spiritually. I really agreed with the authors' statement on the same page "Christians must strike a balance between the enjoyment of, and detachment from, their possessions."³

Two pages really isn't enough to go through everything that this reading revealed about my worldview. Another example, to keep it short, was on page 32 where Walborn and Chan quote "someone" that "tithing ... is His method of raising children." WOW! I have never seen tithing as a discipline that God uses to raise us. It really changes my perspective of tithing. Since I was younger, I saw tithing as something I just needed to do out of obedience. I "just had to do it." But seeing it as a method of raising children, makes me see it through a lens of love, and I just feel so in awe. God is so good. There are so many treasures in this article, and so little space in this reading report. I have seen a new light of tithing and I am so excited to teach my students

² Walborn and Chan, *Stewardship*, 27.

³ Walborn and Chan, *Stewardship*, 27.

about the Father's love for us. The spiritual disciplines are not to hurt us, or tire us out, but to equip us, build us up, and bring us closer to our Father.

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: _____ Jessica Lee _____

Bibliography