

“STEWARDSHIP AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD” - READING REPORT

Turron Alleyne
SF505 NA/NOS - Formation for Ministry
May 13, 2023

“*Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*” by Ron Walborn and Frank Chan was about restoring biblical stewardship in the church. Not just limited to money, but stewardship of all that God gives us – our gifts, time, talents, families, etc... Walborn and Chan state that, “...*a steward is a person who takes care of someone else’s property.*”¹; which is basically saying that essentially we, as Christ followers, own nothing – everything is the Lord’s. So when we give of our time, money, information, relationships, etc., we are giving back to the Lord what’s already His. So we are not to hold onto “our” resources as if we own them ourselves. What Walborn and Chan are emphasizing is that we need to get back to “...*heart worship...*”² as opposed to giving and serving out of religious duty.

My interaction with this reading had quite an impactful and immediate effect on my present ministry. As I was reading this, I was convicted of paying an outstanding balance on a certain bill I owed, and I also made immediate decisions to set up a practical way to pay people back that I owe. I did this in the middle of reading! I literally put the book down, stopped reading and took action on my decisions. I was so grateful for these convictions.

This book revealed quite a bit about my worldview on stewardship. One area was right in the introduction. Walborn and Chan wrote,

The church in North America has tragically and unknowingly reduced following Jesus to a series of creeds to believe and a group of prayers to be prayed... We have produced disciples who do not mind taking up their cross, so long as it is not too heavy, fits into their schedule and does not conflict with their lifestyle. 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.³

This is actually a sad reality and it exposes the disposition of a lot of us in the church today.

¹ Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, (The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001), 7

² Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, (The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001), 10

³ Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, (The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001), 1

Another area I really appreciated was the section on “*The Spirit of the Tithe*”⁴. I was pleasantly reminded about why we tithe. Sometimes I can be robotic about tithing and forget about the heart behind it. I remember a time in my life when I was just going through the motions of tithing and wasn’t really giving from the heart. Walborn and Chan wrote,

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 or the heart behind the gift. This, of course, does not mean the specifics of the amount or percentage are unimportant...but again, God’s desire was for their hearts to be aligned to His heart first.⁵

This is so key as to why we tithe, and it’s a biblical truth that softens the heart if we allow it to sink in.

These statements actually leads me into what I agree with most about this book. God is all about our heart posture and even though He commands us to do things, He wants our hearts to be *in* our obedience. All throughout the different examples of stewardship, the authors really revealed the heart of God behind what He has entrusted us to steward. But what I did disagree with most was the use of Luke 6:20. I, and many Bible scholars who have written on this verse, believe that when Jesus used the word “poor” in this verse, He was referring to being poor in spirit, not in finances. Those are two completely different things, and I don’t believe this verse supports the viewpoint of the authors.

In conclusion, this book will impact my theology and ministry by understanding that God is all about our hearts. I need to make sure my heart is in the right posture as I serve in ministry, give in ministry and in life, and as I strive to obey God, that I do it with a heart that is pure in His sight. This book was truly a blessing and a piece that forces me to examine my heart. Though it was written over 20 years ago, it still rings true today and leads people to the Heart of Christ!

⁴ Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, (The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001), 28

⁵ Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, *Stewardship and the Kingdom of God*, (The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001), 28-29

With integrity, I have read this book:

Thoroughly and Entirely_____%

Quickly but Completely_____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely_____%

Quickly and NOT Completely_____%

Not at all

Signed: Turron Alleyne