

Simple Gifts. Look for “Simple Gifts” in our monthly newsletter. These devotions emphasize that stewardship is “not simply a function of doing business in the local congregation,” but “an act of worship” that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus. With titles such as “The Gift of the Gospel” and “God’s Gift of Life,” they are based on the theme of “gift.” We pray that you will be enriched by God’s Word shared in “Simple Gifts.”

The “Why” of Stewardship

“...SO THAT through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus, our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him” (Eph. 3:10-12).

What is the goal of your stewardship? This is really the WHY question of stewardship. Human beings were created for the task of being stewards. Read Genesis chapters one and two and you will see this. You were created to have dominion and subdue creation in a manner that is in keeping with the image of God in which you were created. This takes place in the way that you work and keep the creation entrusted to you by God.

The only problem we have with stewardship is found in Genesis chapter three. There, in an act of rebellion and sin, stewards named Eve and Adam claimed ownership over that which God had created them to steward, not to own. We have a word for claiming ownership over something that belongs to another. That word is theft. But they were stealing more than a fruit. They were stealing God’s place and God’s glory! Ever since that fateful day in the garden, we have followed suit. What God has given us to steward, we have attempted to own.

So, God once again shows His glory in establishing the eternal purpose of Jesus Christ. In going to the cross, Jesus restores us in forgiveness to the task of once again stewarding what God has given us. Forgiven and restored in Jesus, we are once again stewards. Not just of creation, but of the Gospel.

Today we pray again that we would be able to recognize the simple gifts the Lord has given us to steward for the sake of the Gospel. In this we make known the manifold wisdom of God. As we faithfully steward the simple gifts God has entrusted to us, we point people to the redemption and restoration through Jesus Christ. Remember, the people around you see Jesus through your stewardship. What are you showing others in how you steward God’s simple gifts?

Prayer

Blessed Lord, Your simple gifts are given from Your generous heart to people like me who tend to want to own rather than serve. Lead me to repent of my desire for ownership, and turn me to steward creation for the sake of the Gospel. I pray that the many aspects of Your grace be shown through my stewardship. Amen.

The Stewardship Board