

FASTING AND PRAYER DAY – AFTERNOON PROGRAM ON SABBATH, OCTOBER 3, 2015

STEWARDSHIP AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

FIRST PART

Stewardship is:

- The lifestyle of those who accept Christ as their Lord.
- He is walking in partnership with God, working as His representative in managing his business on earth (our bodies as his temples, time, talents and wealth)

This is the classic definition of Stewardship according to the World Church / General Conference.

DISCUSSION

As Seventh Day Adventists, how do you understand the following expressions and how would you apply them in your life?

- a) “The Lifestyle”
- b) “Accepting Christ as Lord”
- c) “Being in partnership with God”

PRAYER SESSION

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us put that into practice in our daily lives.

SECOND PART

« All of me in response to all of God. »

This is the definition given by Pastor Erika F. Puni, Director of the Stewardship Department at the General Conference (2005 – 2010).

DISCUSSION

Read 2 Peter. 3:9–13. What are the relationships between these biblical verses and the two definitions of Stewardship mentioned above, in the context of the Second coming of Christ?

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PRAYER SESSION

Let us pray so that we could recommit ourselves totally to God, and be willing to support God’s cause with all our being and all we have to hasten the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor John Andrianasoa – STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR IOUC

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THIRD PART

Read Luke. 12:13–48.

DISCUSSION

What is Jesus warning his disciples about in this parable related to stewardship? How many types of stewards do we find in it? How are they described? What is the reward a good steward will receive when the Master will come back? What should every steward expect? As stewards of God's cause on earth, what is the decision we should take?

CONCLUSION

"The Lord has a great work to be done, and He will bequeath the most in the future life to those who do the most faithful, willing service in the present life. The Lord chooses His own agents, and each day under different circumstances He gives them a trial in His plan of operation. In each true-hearted endeavor to work out His plan, He chooses His agents not because they are perfect but because, through a connection with Him, they may gain perfection... Of every Christian the Lord requires growth in efficiency and capability in every line. Christ has paid us our wages, even His own blood and suffering, to secure our willing service. He came to our world to give us an example of how we should work, and what spirit we should bring into our labor. He desires us to study how we can best advance His work and glorify His name in the world, crowning with honor, with the greatest love and devotion, the Father who 'so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life' (John 3:16)." - Christ's Object Lessons, p. 330.

"We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. The unused capabilities are as much brought into account as are those that are improved. For all that we might become through the right use of our talents God holds us responsible. We shall be judged according to what we ought to have done, but did not accomplish because we did not use our powers to glorify God. Even if we do not lose our souls, we shall realize in eternity the result of our unused talents. For all the knowledge and ability that we might have gained and did not, there will be an eternal

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loss... But when we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure.” - Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 363.

“Every opportunity to help a brother in need, or to aid the cause of God in the spread of the truth, is a pearl that you can send beforehand and deposit in the bank of heaven for safekeeping. God is testing and proving you. He has been giving His blessings to you with a lavish hand and is now watching to see what use you are making of them, to see if you will help those who need help and if you will feel the worth of souls and do what you can with the means that He has entrusted to you. Every such opportunity improved adds to your heavenly treasure.” - 3T, pp. 249, 250.

PRAYER SESSION

Let us pray so that we would use effectively everything God puts at our disposal / in our trust (the temple of our bodies, time, talents, wealth), to give Him glory and for the salvation of many souls, so that we become faithful stewards of God’s cause. Let us also pray that we would already have this habit of making a deposit at our bank in heaven in order to increase our treasure there.

May God bless us all!