

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TALENTS

Text:

Introduction:

God expects and deserves our first fruits or our very best in every area of our lives. We have recently considered our stewardship of our time, and our testimony.

Our testimony or name is made up by many different things: Our Attitude, Our Associations, Our Actions, Our Appearance and Accessories, and Our Accents or Words.

This evening we will consider another area that we often overlook when it comes to the matter of stewardship; the area of our talents.

Too often people are willing to give God a tip or their surplus or leftovers, but as we said, God deserves and expects the first fruits, or our very best.

Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹ Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

The dictionary defines talent as: a special natural ability or aptitude; a capacity for achievement or success; ability; capability, gift, genius.

When thinking about talent in this light the Bible describes it as Spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:6

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

What are we supposed to do with our talents?

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Is anyone exempt? Does everyone have a gift or talent?

1 Corinthians 7:7

⁷ For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

Being the right kind of steward with the gifts that we have been given begins with our hearts.

2 Corinthians 8:5

⁵ And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

When we give these things to God we are honoring Him.

Proverbs 3:9

⁹ Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

Note:

1. OUR GIFTS OR TALENTS ARE GIVEN BY GOD

1 Corinthians 12:28

²⁸ And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Ephesians 4:8

⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Romans 12:6-8

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Any talent, gift or ability that we have isn't an ability, gift or talent that we have obtained on our own.

2. OUR GIFTS OR TALENTS ARE TO BE GIVEN TO GOD

Romans 12:1

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

God isn't interested in burnt animals today, God looking for people sold out to Him living sacrifices, not dead offerings.

How is this done?

A. Commitment (vs. 1-2)

Romans 12:1-2

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1. Be submitted to the word of God

Paul begins the practical section of this letter by relating to the believer the responsibilities that they have to God.

Pau begins this practical section by dealing with our relationship to God,

2. Be shaped by the Word of God

3. Seeking the will of God

B. Cooperation (vs. 3-8)

Romans 12:3-8

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵ So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

From the believer's relationship to God, Paul moves on to speak about their relationship with other believers. Our responsibility to God is always accompanied with a responsibility to His family.

1. Our relationship in the body

a. We are to be directed toward humility

2. Our resources in the body (vs. 6)

Romans 12:6

⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

C. Our Conduct (vs. 9-21)

The remaining verses of chapter 12 constitute a fast-moving, almost disconnected series of commands and precepts. All of them involve the day-to-day conduct that is to exist in the believer's life.

1. Affection – love without dissimulation
2. Action – when our affection is right our action will be right
3. Answer

Romans 12:17-19

¹⁷Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Close: