

# Kingdom Stewardship

All of us are familiar with the fact that the Stewardship Season at the Chapel is just around the corner. In late Summer and early Fall the thoughts of our leaders turn to setting goals for the upcoming new year which includes discussions about developing a workable and realistic budget so that our church can meet its financial obligations. But, if we limit our stewardship thoughts to our finances alone, we might just be missing out on God's plans for our lives and for the life of our church.



## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

Reverend Doctor Tony Evans says it this way, "Let (God) influence what you do, who you do it with, what you watch, how you spend your time, and what you say. That's the true definition of stewardship. If it were only about money, it would be easy. But stewardship has to do with every single area of your life, even your thoughts."

Yes, we talk about giving our time, talents, and treasure during Stewardship Season but without the sharing of enough "treasure" there simply won't be a church where we might also give of our time and our talents. So, those of us who have been in the church for most of our lives have come to associate Stewardship Season with pledge cards, the concept of tithing, and alternating between the joy of being able to give generously or the guilt of not being able to do as much as we would ideally like to do.

This year during Stewardship Season let's broaden our perspective on stewardship. Let's be honest about the need to give of our resources to further the ministries of this Chapel that we all love so much, but let's also consider that the concept of stewardship should be foremost in all areas of our lives. Let's consider that this holistic approach to stewardship is that for which we were created by God and it's what will ultimately bring all of us the deepest sense of purpose, fulfillment, and blessing. Stewardship, in its broadest, practical, and most spiritual meaning should call us to devote all we are and all we possess toward growing God's kingdom on earth. So, let's call this new idea of stewardship "Kingdom Stewardship".

The kick off for this new adventure into Kingdom Stewardship will be on August 13 when your Board of Directors will host a "Time and Talent Fair" following worship. Tables will be set up and staffed by all the Teams and working groups of the Chapel to make sure that you have an opportunity to hear about their important ministries. This "Time and Talent Fair" will give you a chance to ask questions and find out where you might volunteer your precious time and particular talents to help build God's kingdom through the opportunities provided to you by your church. The goal is to find out what ministries you are passionate about and then introduce you to others who share your interests and abilities in building God's kingdom.

Also on Sunday, August 13 I will begin a four-part sermon series on Kingdom Stewardship which will be enhanced by a four-session Bible study on the same topic. The Bible study will begin on Thursday, August 17th, at 4:00 and conclude on Thursday, September 7th. This Bible study will be based on the writings of Reverend Doctor Tony Evans who asks, "What are true riches? True riches come from the presence of God in your life bringing joy, peace, contentment, and hope. True riches come from passing God's blessings on to others. True riches come from living the life God meant you to live...as the hands and feet of Jesus."

Look for more information about becoming a part of the Kingdom Stewardship Bible Study coming your way soon. I look forward to this new adventure into the meaning of stewardship with all of you in worship and through the Kingdom Stewardship Bible Study.

A final word from Reverend Evans concerning stewardship, "You are the manager, not the owner, of all that God has entrusted to you...The secret to the good life is in aligning yourself under the purposes of God. This is the only pathway to unleashing your fullest potential...and finding true blessing and true riches."



Peace,  
Pastor Paul