

INTRODUCTION

- * We are nearing the end of a series on “The Marks of a Healthy Church.”
- * We have considered the characteristics of the early church from Acts. They ‘continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers...and...’Continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house
- * Jesus’ desire for unity among the believers in the church was critical for His message to be heard and ‘that the world may believe that You sent Me.
- * There are four major areas in which the church functions- Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship and Stewardship.
- * We have examined Ephesians 4:1-16 and 1 Corinthians 12-14 considering the Unity of the Church, the Synergy of the Church, the Diversity of the Church and the Excellency of the Church.
- * Today we will look at the fourth “ship” in the functioning of the church.

INSTRUCTION

I. STEWARDSHIP - the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care. It is managing everything God brings into our lives in a manner that honors Him.- Psalm 24:1; John 12:25; Luke 12:48b, Matt 25:23

A. Time- Ephesians 5:15-17; John 9:4; Ecclesiastes 3:1

B. Talents- 1 Corinthians 12; Matthew 25:14-30

C. Treasure

1. T _____ Genesis 14:20; Deuteronomy 12:22; Numbers 18:26

2. O _____ Genesis 4:3-4; Exodus 30:13; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 14:33

The Example of the Macedon Church

1. E _____ 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 2 Corinthians 9:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:6-15

The Appeal to the Corinthian church

2. E _____ 2 Corinthians 8:6-15; 2 Corinthians 9:3-5,9; Proverbs 3:28; 1 John 3:17-18

3. E _____ 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

4. E _____ 2 Corinthians 9:10-15; Matthew 6:25-26; Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:9-10; 2 Chronicles 31:10; Proverbs 11:24-25

INTROSPECTION

- * How do you spend your time? for yourself or for the Kingdom of God?
- * Are withholding anything (time, talent, treasure) from the LORD?
- * Are you missing the blessing of giving to others in need? Are you missing blessings because you don’t trust God to meet your needs?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK, AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * What is our individual financial obligation to the assembly under grace?
- * What is our individual/corporate financial obligation to those outside our assembly?