



Word Notes: Sunday 30/09/18

Tony Hodge: Functional Faith - Stewardship

Key Text: Gen 1:26-31

Our Stewardship of our lives, all we are, have and touch starts right at the beginning – and it was very good! We soon messed up though and caring for the earth, growing food etc became hard work (Gen 3:16-20). But Jesus came to redeem our lives and set us free, the result is in Matt 6:28 & 29 and our approach summarised in Romans 12:1 & 2.

Even so we live in a “between time” – we are both saved and redeemed, living a new life yet awaiting the fulfilment on Jesus’ return. In the meantime we still work but in God’s strength and having seen our debt paid in full all we have is God’s – all we have to do is decide how much we can use for us and how much to use for the Kingdom-Ofm and that means Time, Talents Possessions and Money.

Small Group discussion

Did you think Stewardship is only about your cash? How do you see “stewarding” your time, talents possessions and money under the New Covenant of Grace and love? Is your whole life given as a “living sacrifice”? What changes might you make in your life to make it more this way?

How does Matt 6:28 & 29 match up with the facts that we need to work to support ourselves?

Do you agree with Tony’s friend who said: “The Lord is my pension” and didn’t pay into her works final salary gold-plated scheme? Is God’s provision “at the point of need” or should we invest what He’s given us now? (Read Matt 25 if you’re not sure – or suggest other scriptural guidance).

What is your view on Tithes and Offerings? Is 10% the “rule” or a good starting place? What about the person who has an abundance – is 10% enough?

What does 2 Cor 9:7 mean to you – does it describe your heart when giving into God’s work?