

Practical Theology (CM3)

Stewardship of Christian Call & Vision

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Practical Theology (CM3)

Aug. 14 – Intro to Practical Theology & Stewardship

Aug. 21 – Stewardship of Call & Vision

Aug. 28 – Stewardship of Faith & Commitment

Sept. 4 – ***No Class***

Sept. 11 – Stewardship of Time & Opportunities

Sept. 18 – Stewardship of Resources

Sept. 25 – Stewardship of Influence

Oct. 2 – Call to Action; Final Exam

What is “Practical Theology?”

- **The discipline that is concerned with understanding and applying religious beliefs and practices to our daily lives.**
- **Practical Theology seeks to find practical answers to the question, “How do we apply our beliefs to our daily lives?”**
- **Practical Theology has several sub-fields:**
 - ❖ **Pastoral theology**
 - ❖ **Missions and evangelism**
 - ❖ **Church growth and church administration**
 - ❖ **Spiritual direction**
 - ❖ **Theologies of justice, peace and liberation**
 - ❖ **Homiletics**
 - ❖ **Spiritual formation and discipleship**

What is “Stewardship?”

“The conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially, the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”


A steward is someone who cares for something that belongs to someone else.

As Christians, we know that all things are made by God and still belong to Him, and we are called to be stewards of everything God places (or entrusts) into our lives

What is “Stewardship?”

Christian Stewardship has to do with every aspect of our lives and with every choice we make.

Jesus calls us to be disciples. As disciples of Christ we must have a clear understanding of the biblical call to ***Whole Life Stewardship*** as our most fundamental act of obedience.



Stewardship of God's Call on Our Lives

- Stewardship of our Call means to fully accept our election to salvation – without equivocating or going half-way. It is to go “all-in” for God.

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38-39

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

Stewardship of God's Call on Our Lives

- To recognize that our Call is to a life of holiness before God, and in service to others.

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

2 Timothy 1:9

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Stewardship of God's Call on Our Lives

- To recognize and use the gifts, energy and power God has given us to fulfill His Call and purpose for us and for our lives.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. *Ephesians 1:18-19*

- The miracle of complementary gifting.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-8

Stewardship of God's Call on Our Lives

- If God's objectives for His Call on our lives become our objectives, our lives will be both productive and fulfilling in ways we perhaps cannot imagine.


“If you have a pulse, you have a purpose.”

- **So, what are YOU called to do?**
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Stewardship of God's Gift of Vision

Where there is no vision, the people perish...

Proverbs 29:18

- Spiritual Vision is a gift of God – the ability to see something that does not yet exist in the physical realm.
 - God does not give us tasks without also giving the Vision to see how that task may be fulfilled.
 - It is Vision that allows us to move ahead with confidence, to the completion of God's will.
 - Once God has given us a spiritual Vision, it is up to us to steward it with wisdom, care and diligence.
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Stewardship of God's Gift of Vision

Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

¹¹ This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

¹² "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

¹³ "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." ¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.


¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

¹⁸ As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, "Strike this army with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

Stewardship of God's Gift of Vision

- While God may not give *visions* to many of us, he provides spiritual Vision to all of us.
 1. We need Vision to find our way on life's journey and to have assurance of God's provision and protection.
 2. We need Vision to keep our focus on God-given goals.
 3. We need Vision to set our hearts on the true reward God promises.
 - **Vision *from* God should lead to action *for* God.**
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Stewardship of God's Gift of Vision

- God speaks to us, confirming our Vision, in three primary ways:
 1. Through the instruction and direction given in His Word, the Bible.
 2. As we go and meet with Him in prayer.
 3. As He guides us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our minds and hearts.
 - So, what **VISION** had God given to you?
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