

## eStewardship Thoughts

### Options for sending emails:

- ✦ Highlight, copy and paste each message into the body of an email.
- ✦ Highlight, copy and paste each into a file and attach to an email.
- ✦ Scan each eStewardship Thought separately and place in a file to send.

### Wednesday's Wisdom

#### Be Careful of Greed

Jesus said, *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions"* (Luke 12:15). In contrast to Jesus' warning, the world tells us that greed is good. Our society makes every effort to entice us to live a materialistic lifestyle. Costly and manipulative advertising bombards us daily for the purpose of creating a desire for more and more things. We are told that we need one luxury after another. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit will we not fall prey to the pulls of the world. God calls us to be in the world but not of the world. As John wrote, *"Do not love the world or anything in the world"* (1 John 2:15). Through faith, we know that *"the world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever"* (1 John 2:17).



**Prayer:** Lord, open my eyes to the sin and problem of greed. Help me, also, to stay away from debt and the problems that debt can cause. Change my heart so that I desire only you and merely use material goods as you will. Make me a God-pleasing steward. Through Christ I pray. **Amen.**

**Blessing on your stewardship journey!**

### Wednesday's Wisdom

#### We Are God's Instruments

As Christians, we can, in Christ, share his love with others through our good acts. God has chosen and equipped us to be his instruments of support, service, and compassion. As C. S. Lewis wrote, *"Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of."* In essence, God uses the small things that we do and multiples them into something significant. Paul wrote, *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen."* (Ephesians 3:20).



**Prayer:** Our gracious heavenly Father, I thank you for the gift of faith. Grant me steadfast faith so that I can withstand the temptations of life, the world, and my flesh. Help me to be the instrument you want me to be. In Christ's name I pray. **Amen.**

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**

## Wednesday's Wisdom

### God Warns the Wealthy

God loves both the rich and the poor. However, it can be difficult for the rich to love the Lord because they can so easily become absorbed in the things that they possess. Jesus warned that wealth can be highly dangerous. He told how difficult it was for the rich to be saved when he said, *"How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God"* (Luke 18:24-25). God doesn't condemn wealth. The warning is about the attitude that an abundance of money and possessions can cause. Paul wrote, *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs"* (1 Timothy 6:10).



**Prayer:** Good and gracious heavenly Father, I pray that you will strengthen me so I never place my security in worldly things. Help me to understand that the only important relationship that I need is with you. Grant me an attitude of humility and dependence on you. Through Christ I pray. **Amen.**

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**

## Wednesday's Wisdom

### In Christ, We Are New Creations

Scripture tells us that we cannot be free to be God's servants or stewards until death to ourselves takes place in each of us. This death is not a physical death, but a spiritual death. It is the death of the old nature in us so the new nature or new life in Christ can be raised. Paul wrote, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). All things in Christ are created anew. It is this new life in Christ that people see as we give generously and serve freely. *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10).



**Prayer:** Lord, I thank you for your love and strength that transforms me into a new person who lives to serve you rather than myself and the ways of the world. Grant me grace to remain in your love and to be a giving and generous person. Help me to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" In Jesus' precious name I pray. **Amen.**

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**