

“Lightning & Thunder”

INTRODUCTION

A special series on Stewardship

2/18/07

What do you value the most? What do your thoughts turn to most frequently when you are free to think of whatever you will? What affords you the greatest pleasure? What is it you treasure the most?

I sincerely believe that –
GOD THE FATHER TREASURES _____ ABOVE
ALL ELSE.

THOSE “BORN FROM ABOVE” TREASURE _____
ABOVE ALL ELSE.

TREASURING _____ BECOMES MY LIFE-
LONG MISSION.

THE CHURCH IS THE _____ VESSEL DE-
SIGNING TO SUSTAIN THE ACTIVITY OF TREASURING.

Ask yourself: Do I treasure Christ above anything or anyone else? Am I so driven by the thought of heavenly glory that it has completely shaped my worldview?

Let me answer in part by passing along some ‘fast facts’ impacting churches:

- The average credit card debt per U.S. household is \$_____. (source: Cardweb.com)
- _____ percent of Americans have items stored in the U.S.’s 40,000+ storage facilities. (USA Today)
- There has been a 30+ year _____ in the percentage Christians give. (source: Empty Tomb Research)
- In 1999, three billion was given to 600 Christian mission agencies. Encouraging until you compare it to the \$_____ billion spent on soda products; \$_____ billion

for movie theatres; \$_____ billion for chocolate products; \$_____ billion for pets, et al. (source: Empty Tomb Research)

- The average giving among evangelicals is _____ percent. During the Great Depression the average among those attending church was _____ percent. (source: Barna)
- _____ to _____ percent of those who attend church have NO recorded giving record. (source: Christian Stewardship Association CSA)

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP.... WHY NOW?

“O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! ⁵ Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! ⁶ Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather! ⁷ “And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you” (Psalms 39:4-7).