
NOTES FROM THE FIRST CLASS

In addition to the scriptures used in Lesson 1, we used other passages in our discussion. Some have requested this information, plus the information which was written on the board during the class.

Susie Jones is a good note taker, and she accurately put all that information into her notebook. She graciously consented to us including those notes from the class into the bulletin for the more long-lasting benefit of all the members.

We began the class discussing why we are studying this series of lessons; then we began talking about Lesson 1, which pertains to attitudes of giving. First, we will consider the extra scriptures and how they applied to the lesson:

Deuteronomy 16:16 talks about the importance of giving in the old covenant, where nobody was to come to the Lord's house empty-handed. The very next verse (**v.17**) says that everyone is to give as he is able. That implies that everybody was able to give at least something.

We considered the wonderful example of the Macedonians who gave themselves first to the Lord; therefore, giving of themselves would not be any trouble (**2 Cor. 8:1-5**). Another good example of someone who gave himself, even to the point of nearly dying to help Paul, was Epaphroditus (**Phil. 2:30**).

We also discussed the principle of stewardship. A steward is a person (often a slave or servant) who was responsible for his master's property. We are to be stewards of what we received from God. The elders are stewards (**Titus 1:7**) because they must give account for their oversight of our souls (**Hebrews 13:17**). Paul was a steward of the word of God (**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**), and he had the responsibility to teach it. When we receive it, we are to also be faithful in teaching it to others (**2 Timothy 2:2**). **Matthew 25:14-30** is a parable that teaches the importance of faithfulness in stewardship. **Verse 29** says, "Use it or lose it!" (Prince James Version)

Then we considered what God has given us and how we are to use those things. Being spiritually-minded people, several things first listed were spiritual in nature. We have every spiritual blessing in Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**). We already have them (It says God the Father "*has* blessed us..."). Here is the list we compiled:

- Life
- Health
- Forgiveness
- Heirs of the kingdom
- Word
- Everything material
- Time
- Energy
- Opportunities
- Other people, relationships
- Choice

The same list, now including what God expects us to do with our gifts:

- Life...serve God
- Health...take care of our bodies
- Forgiveness...forgive others and evangelize
- Heirs of the kingdom

Word...teach others

Everything material...give to the needy (**James 1:27**); give to those we love; give to the local church; invest, pay taxes, provide for families (**1 Timothy 5:8**)

Time...invest wisely

Energy...be diligent for the right purpose

Opportunities...use them

Other people, relationships...love them

Choice...we are accountable for making right choices