

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR CHURCH GROWTH

N B T S
M. DIV
AK-313

AKINLADE, ABIODUN OLUSEYE
07/0097

A Thesis in the Department of Theology Faculty of Theological Studies of
The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Ogbomoso
In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of
The Degree of Master of Divinity
UNIVERSITY OF JOS

2013-0698

June, 2010

ABSTRACT

This study, "Stewardship as an essential tool on Church Growth" is an attempt to correct wrong perspectives and shed more light to Christian community that stewardship centres on man's relationship with God-giving charge for man not to be preoccupied with material world. It cleared up the myopic understanding of some church members that attitude to possessions should be different. That is every Christian should see God as the owner of the possessions in his care. Attempt has been made to help Christians to find purposes and meaning for life and to challenge daily practice of total Christian message. After the introductory matters, how the work was done and its scope is in chapter one, the second chapter focussed on the literature review of what scholar have said about the issue of stewardship. The thrust of chapter of this work is primarily an evaluation of the theological concept of stewardship. The church cannot be faithful in their stewardship in all ramifications except there is total commitment from the pastor. In every local church, pastor should see himself as the number one steward and a motivator who will lead the church to be more serious in their stewardship to God. Discipleship programme in this area of stewardship would be of great value in this regard.

Essential elements for effective stewardship which are very important to the life of a Christian community and through which the kingdom of God was fully established include teaching, planning, enlisting, and sending. All these had made impact on stewardship education effective.

The summary of the work, conclusion and recommendations was the concerns of chapter five of this work. These are recommendations for all the churches, Ministers and

laity inclusive. It was concluded that, all Christians must realise that they are the managers of the possession in their cares while God is the owner.

CONCLUSION

Inadequate knowledge of Christian stewardship, ignorance of God's word, lack of faith in Jesus Christ and unfaithfulness on the part of the ministers of the word contributes to the poor stewardship lifestyle of the community of faith and more so, this greatly affect the growth of the church.

Besides, each minister should see the teaching of stewardship as an inevitable tool in church growth and this will help the church to reach the height God would have wanted for the church. And as a result of this, the community of faith will be better for it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the experience acquired in the course of this thesis, the church today seems to be complacent in upholding the teaching of stewardship which has led the church to ridicule in the society by way of lifestyles. So, the writer deems it requisite to give the following recommendations which I believe will enhance the overall stewardship standard of churches:-

1. Introduction to stewardship should be designed in which every individual that wants to join the membership of the church must go through. After an individual has gone through the teaching and still satisfy to be members of the church, it is then such member can be certified to join.
2. The leadership of the church must deem it a necessary to educate the members of the church about stewardship and they role it plays in making the church be what it ought to be.
3. Christian stewardship resources should be available for a very practical approach that will produce excellent results for congregations which are facing stewardship challenges realistically. This is an understandable framework for leaders who want their congregation to be their healthier as a sound institution, but it also pushes beyond the financial to the spiritual dimension of financial health

4. For effective running of stewardship programme in the any local church the pastor of the church should be able to constitute a committee that will see to it, if that, it is well organized, productive and fruitful. And the committee will in turn give report to the church through pastor.