



PREACH THE
WORD
It's Still All About
Jesus

The Creator's Steward

1 Tim 6:6-10 1 Cor 12:4-20, 27 Matt 25:14-30

November 15, 2020

Pastor Dave Bolte

We believe, teach, and confess that God the Father Almighty is the Maker of heaven and earth and everything visible and invisible.

Nicene Creed

He alone is the Creator. As the Creator, **He owns everything.** Everything from the sun, moon and stars in the sky to the earthworms, ants, and bugs in the dirt. He has created it all; He owns everything ... *including you and me.*

We are completely dependent on *God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth.* In the Old Testament, Job realized this and said:

Job said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return..."
Job 1:21

We are dependent on God to provide for us; from the blanket that kept you warm in your cradle; to the blanket that will keep you warm on your deathbed --- and everything in between! We are all dependent on God for all things!

The way that God the Father provides for you is through other people. When other people are faithful in their **vocations**, *doing their job and using their gifts*, then you have food to eat, and clothes to wear, and work to do, and a home to live in, and health, peace, safety, education, recreation and so forth. **Everything you have comes from God at work through other people.** God works

through others to provide for you ---> and in the same way, God works through you to provide for others! That is why it is so important for you to be faithful in your **vocations**, because God is working *through you*, and *your work*, *your duties*, and *your responsibilities* to provide for other people.

As Christians, we confess that every good thing (however small) within our lives is an undeserved gift from God.

2017 Explanation to the Small Catechism, p.156, CPH

Faithfulness is our response to the Creator and His good gifts in our lives. When you realize that everything you are and everything you have is a gift from *God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth*, then you understand that you are a manager and **steward** of those things. You have the freedom to use what the Creator has given you to His glory and to serve other people.

The word “**steward**” means that something valuable has been entrusted to you. That is the idea behind the word “**stewardship**” --> *something valuable has been entrusted to you*. It’s like you are a guardian, or an overseer, or a caretaker of everything that God has blessed you with. That is why ... for instance ...

- † You love and care for **your family and friends** – there are people in your life that need you and depend on you
- † That is why you exercise, or watch your weight, or take medicine, or go to the doctor – because **your body** is a gift that you are to watch over, take care of, and make decisions about
- † That is why you take care of **your home** – you have been given a place to call home, perhaps with land, and trees, and bushes that you are to take care of and make decisions about;
- † That is why you love, feed, and take care of **your pets** – they are living creatures that the Lord has given to you to take care of and make decisions about.

God has showered you with all kinds of **physical blessings!** He is very generous to us! I bet almost every one of us wish we had more storage in our homes --- *don't we?* That's because we have so much "stuff" --- that "stuff" is all physical blessings from God's good hand.

When you understand that God has given you the things you have, then **contentment** soon follows. **Contentment accepts what God gives and thanks Him for it.** The world, on the other hand, wants you to be envious of your neighbor. The world breeds jealousy, and even bitterness because someone else has "more" than you do. The world cultivates a *begrudging attitude* and *resentfulness* towards others. **But that is not God's way.** *God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth,* gives you a spirit of **contentment:** you acknowledge that everything you are and everything you have is a gift from His good hand --- and you thank Him for it! That's **contentment!**

By far the most important thing that *God the Father Almighty* has given to you is *His Son, Jesus the Christ.* The Father's great love for you drove Him to send Jesus to be your Savior. Jesus took your sins to a cross where He died for you and your salvation. On the Third Day, He rose from the dead, and the Father declared you "*righteous*" – that is, "*not guilty!*" of your sin. You have been rescued, saved, redeemed, and delivered by *God the Father Almighty* at work through *His Son, Jesus the Christ!*

Your Christian faith and life is a gift from *God the Father Almighty's* gracious hand! Faith is a gift that has been entrusted to you to take care of, to oversee, and to guard. That is why you stay diligent in worship, stay close to God's Word and Sacrament, you set aside time to pray, meditate, and memorize, you make time to study and learn God's Word, and you are interested and involved in the Kingdom of God. Faith itself is a gift that has been entrusted to you to take care

of, to oversee, and to guard. It needs careful attention and nourishing.

One response to *God the Father Almighty's* blessing in your life is that you give your **tithes and offerings** so that others can hear and believe the Gospel good news about Jesus. As a congregation, we depend on your faithful giving to support the work we do here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Because of the Covid-situation we are in, we are not going to have Pledge Card Sunday like we have in years past. Rather this year, we want to say **"Thank You!"**

- ⇒ *Thank You* for being faithful in your giving;
- ⇒ *Thank You* for continuing to give even during this pandemic and all the unknowns that we are going through;
- ⇒ *Thank You* for being generous in your giving
- ⇒ *Thank You* for your support of the work of Gospel ministry that we do here at Trinity Lutheran Church!

We believe, teach, and confess that God the Father Almighty is the Maker of heaven and earth and everything visible and invisible.

- ⇒ He owns all things and we are all dependent on Him for all things!
- ⇒ *God the Father Almighty* is also extremely generous and kind. He has entrusted you with everything you are and everything you have.

You have the freedom to be **faithfulness** as a steward of the things *God the Father Almighty* has entrusted to you!

You have the freedom to be **generous** with the many blessings God has showered upon you!

And you have **contentment**: thanking and praising *God the Father Almighty* for all that He has done for you! Amen!