

YORKMINSTER PARK REFLECTS

Friday, October 2, 2015

A Reflection from Ananda Sinnadurai

Stewardship is responsibility and management of a resource. Stewardship is the way values, time, energy, aptitude, skills and resources are utilized. God created everything and made us stewards of our world. Genesis 1:27 – 29. ²⁷ *"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;..."*

Psalms 90: 12 says: *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."* Our days are numbered so our time is limited, thus we must show good stewardship of our time here on earth. Stewardship of time shows responsibility and management of time as a resource. Anything we want to do we can do through Christ, no matter how difficult the task is. Philippians 4:13 *"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength"*. Christ works through us; we must align our purpose in life with Christ.

Stewardship of time is more than managing our time. It is about clarifying our values and prioritizing our activities to support our values. To know what activities to do we must always ask these questions. What are our values? What is our purpose in life? What is our responsibility to ourselves, our families, our local communities and the global community?

All we have is ourselves, our potential and the time allotted to us when we come into the world. Parents, Spiritual Leaders, Teachers and other caring adults have to help us learn values, find a purpose in life, carve a path in life, find ourselves, find our place in society. At the end of our lives the question will be: Did we live a meaningful, significant, productive and inspirational life?

God gave us responsibility take care of the earth and all life on earth. So any task no matter how small that helps the earth and life on it is good stewardship of time. All acts of services that change another person's life for the better is good stewardship of time. Utilizing our values, time, energy, aptitude, skills, and resources to make the world we live in a much better place is good stewardship of time.

I am personally reminded of how important is the stewardship of time when I reflect on the life of my dear son, Immanuel. His life was tragically cut short in an accident when he was only 18 years old. We are not guaranteed a certain number of days or years on this earth. Therefore, the use we make of the uncertain time God has granted us is very important. Thankfully, Immanuel used the gift of time for God's glory and honour. Up until half an hour before he was struck on his bicycle he had been working as a full-time Christian summer camp counsellor. What a comfort it is to know that he was wisely using his time in God's service. How even more tragic his loss would be had he wasted the few short years of his life simply pleasing himself, or remaining idle.

You and I don't know how many days we will be granted in this life. Therefore in conclusion, it is not a matter of how long you lived, but how well you lived. Did we live a meaningful, significant, productive and inspirational life? Did we use our time wisely? Every day we wake up and realize we are alive is a very good day so what we must ask ourselves is this: *"What can I do today to make myself, others and the world better? True stewardship of time is about using that time in service for God. As Paul wrote in Romans 14:8 – "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."*