**The Stewardship of Our Heritage**

**Our Heritage of Spiritual Growth**

**4 Key Principles of Stewardship**

1. God owns everything, you own nothing.

2. God entrusts you with everything you have.

3. You can either increase or diminish what God has given you; God wants you to increase it.

4. You can be called into account at any time, and it may be today.

**Ephesians 3:20-21** - *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

**1 Corinthians 1:17-18** - *For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

**1 Corinthians 2:2** - *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

**I. The Context of Spiritual Growth – Suffering and Controversy**

A. In Paul’s case

**Philippians 1:7** - *…I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.*

**Colossians 1:24** - *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.*

**v. 25** - …*according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit…*

**v. 25** - *…that I might fully carry out the preaching of the Word of God…*

B. In the context of American Christianity of the 1960s

C. In the history of Faith

**II. The Tools of Spiritual Growth**

**Colossians 1:28** - *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

A. Teaching

B. Admonishing

Greek– nous/mind, tithimi/place or put

**Romans 15:14** - *And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.*

**Acts 20:31** - *Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.*

C. Central to our church’s mission

The mission of Faith Church is to glorify God by winning people to Jesus Christ and equipping them to be more faithful disciples.

**Matthew 28:19-20** - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

Growing Stronger – believing that God has a plan for every Christian’s growth, and that He wants godly lives and families built.

**III. The Goal of Spiritual Growth – Maturity in Christ**

**Colossians 1:28** - *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

A. Inside the church

B. As an effective outreach

**Colossians 1:28** - *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

**IV. The Cost of Spiritual Growth – Laboring with God’s Power**

**Colossians 1:29** - *For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*

**1 Timothy 4:7** - *But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness…*