

Bible Study Group Notes

1 Chronicles 29.1-18

THE BIG PICTURE

David is near the end of his life, preparing for a temple he will never build. He gives generously himself, invites others to give, and the people respond willingly and joyfully. But David's prayer shows that the deepest truth is not how much they have given, but where it all came from.

Everything belongs to God. Everything in their hands came first from him. That is why David can say, *"All things come from you, and of your own have we given you."*

That gives us a Christian way to think about stewardship. Before we are givers, we are receivers. God's grace opens our hands.

INVESTIGATE

Read 1 Corinthians 29.1-18.

1. What does David say in verses 1-5 about the work ahead and about his own giving?
2. How do the leaders respond in verses 6-9? What words describe both their giving and their attitude?
3. What does David say about God in verses 10-13? What belongs to him?
4. Why is David's question in verse 14 so important: "Who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly?"
5. What does "all things come from you" mean in the context of this chapter?
6. What do verses 15-16 add to David's understanding of ownership and dependence on God?
7. In verse 17, what does David say God is interested in (as well as the outward gift)?

REFLECT & APPLY

8. Which things are you most likely to think of simply as "mine" – money, time, home, abilities, experience, plans, opportunities?
9. What difference does it make to think of those things as something God has entrusted to you?
10. The people "gave willingly" and "rejoiced". What can make Christian giving or serving feel reluctant, pressured, or resentful instead?
11. In the sermon, we heard that "The gospel is not an invoice." Why is it important that we give because God has already loved us in Christ, rather than in order to earn his favour?
12. Where might grace need to loosen your grip at the moment? This may involve money, but what other possibilities are there?
13. Remembering that everything comes from God protects us from both **pride** and **fear**. How does it do each of those things?
14. David prepared carefully for work that someone else would complete. Where might God be calling us to invest in people or work whose full fruit we may never personally see?

PRAY

- Thank God for what he has placed in your hands: material provision, abilities, relationships, opportunities, time and experience.
- Ask him to forgive us for treating his gifts as though they belonged to us alone.
- Thank God above all for giving his Son, Jesus Christ, and for the grace, forgiveness and hope we receive in him.
- Ask God to make us people who receive his gifts with gratitude, release them with gladness, and use them for his glory and the good of others.

NB The Church Prayer Pointers for October are available in church or on the WhatsApp group.