



The Flame

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Christ at the Center of it All Sanctified Resources

“Resources.”

If your first thought was “That’s just a euphemism for *money*,” you’re not alone. Ask the non-churched general public about churches, and you’ll get a fair share of responses about “all they want is your money.”

But if they don’t go to church, how would they know? [Quick hint: they may have watched a televangelist or two a least once in their lives.]

Of course, I’m sure there is a pastor or two somewhere who would wistfully respond to that common accusation with, “I wish I had ten thousand dollars for every time I’ve heard that!”

Alright, time out! Let’s get back to the starting block.

If Christ is to be the center of it all, then “all” has to mean just that. And *resources*, of course, covers a lot more territory than our bank accounts.

There is the one resource we all have in equal measure: time. All those who do not have 24 hours a day, raise your hands. In many ways, time may be both our most wasted as well as our most valuable asset.

Add our homes, personal goods, accumulated knowledge and experience, wisdom, insight, our relationships and influence, and we have a good start for a rather impressive list of resources. Any definition will refer in some way or another to assets at our disposal, enabling us to function effectively.

We are often enticed by our worldview to focus on our hard work to explain our resources. The myth of the “self-made man” has an intoxicating allure.

But take note:

If the LORD doesn’t build the house, the builders are working for nothing. If the LORD doesn’t guard the city, the guards are watching for nothing (Psalm 127:1). Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father (James 1:17).

He is the Source. And the Source has the rightful place at the center. We are but the stewards. He speaks and we respond. His agenda becomes our agenda.

And our resources are at His disposal, to be expended in the redemptive mission of grace.

Take Your Next Step

Declare often the Lordship of Christ. Commit to Him all that is in your hand, including a particular surrender of your relationships to His purpose. Like Moses who cast down His staff and picked it up again at God’s command, be filled with awe at the realization that just as Moses’ staff was known from that day on as “the rod of God,” each resource in your hand is no longer *yours*, but *His*.