

A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving
An introduction of *Stewardship* to the congregation

February 2020

The beloved UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, now in his nineties, began each basketball season by sitting his players on a bench and demonstrating the proper way to put on their socks before putting on their basketball shoes! Coach Wooden knew that if the socks were smooth and tight on their feet it would prevent them from getting blisters and probably not be able to play as they became worse.

One of Coach Wooden's mottos was: "Little things make big things happen." Another of his quotes is "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." He believed that being disciplined in one's life, habits and daily practices is the clue to living a successful and worthy life. Is it any wonder that his UCLA teams won National Championships 10 times? What the coach was teaching was that to be a good steward of the life God has given us, one must be disciplined in all things: one's body, mind, spirit, talents, resources, even the use of our time. This month's issue of *Stewardship* makes highlights the point that if we are not so disciplined, we will not fulfill the plans God has for each of us. The last five verses of the 24th chapter of the book of Proverbs makes a similar point:

"I passed by the field of one who was lazy ... and it was all overgrown with thorns ... covered with nettles. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed warrior." (Proverb 24:30-34)

Such is the life of one who fails to apply their God-given gifts in a consistent, disciplined manner.

Prayer: Teach us, dear Lord, to make our lives fruitful so that we become good and faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**