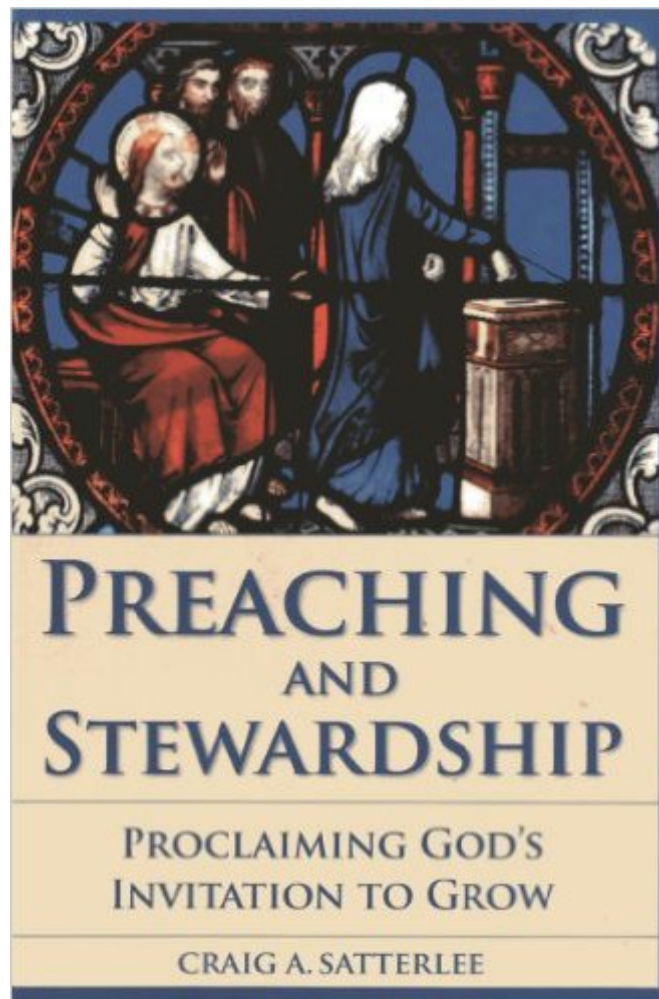


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Preaching And Stewardship: Proclaiming God's Invitation To Grow (Vital Worship Healthy Congregations)



Synopsis

Both new and veteran preachers alike find the annual stewardship sermon a challenge and are eager for encouraging, practical advice. In *Preaching and Stewardship*, Craig Satterlee offers a nuts-and-bolts handbook on preaching stewardship, raising issues preachers need to consider when preparing stewardship sermons and offering advice on how to address them. Satterlee argues that stewardship preaching must include a bold and concrete proclamation of God's love, will, and justice, as well as an invitation to grow as stewards in response to this proclamation. He focuses each chapter on a question preachers ought to ask themselves as they prepare the stewardship sermon, beginning with, 'What do you mean by stewardship?' and 'Why should we give to the church?' In chapters 3 through 6, he explores what the Bible says about stewardship. In chapter 7, he names some of the assumptions both preachers and worshipers bring to the stewardship sermon. The final chapter a variety of ways congregations can support the stewardship sermon. Satterlee illustrates the premise of each chapter with anecdotes from congregational life. Preachers who desire examples of stewardship sermons will especially appreciate stewardship sermons he shares from various preachers to illustrate points in the main text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Craig Satterlee's recent book *Preaching and Stewardship: Proclaiming God's Invitation to Grow* is refreshing for any number of reasons. It is well-written, gospel-centered, clear. But it is refreshing above all for one simple reason: rather than using the word "stewardship" as a euphemism for any

number of good things we might preach on, Satterlee limits his focus to preaching on money. He learned this lesson from a parishioner, who once said, "If you mean money, say money!" The truth is this. Although clergy are asked to preach on stewardship from a spiritual perspective, especially during the fall appeal, the reason for preaching on stewardship at that time is much more pragmatic than spiritual, and it really is focused on money. Churches simply can't do the ministry they do without excellent financial support. So, by necessity, they find effective means to fund the ministry. In the North American context, this has (ever since freedom of religion and an end to forms of taxation that supported the work of the church and clergy) meant and means voluntary donations. Satterlee notes early in the book that outside the church, stewardship means many things, "including 1) the responsibility for taking care of passengers' domestic needs on a cruise ship or train, 2) managing the service provided to diners in an exclusive restaurant, 3) a responsibility to take care of something owned by someone else, 4) an ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of environmental resources to prevent loss of habitat and facilitate its recovery in the interest of long-term sustainability, and 5) a leadership philosophy of service over self-interest" (4).

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