

- In the construction of the tabernacle God is teaching lessons about the church
- 1. God's work is supported by the giving of God's people**
 - Where will the materials come from? 1 ton gold, 3.5 silver, 2.25 bronze (38:21-29). Linen, dyes, jewels, wood, wool, leather. €15 million.
 - God had made the Egyptians generous (Ex 12:35,36), now he calls his people to give some of it to the tabernacle:
 - a) Willingly** – not a tax. “from each man *whose heart prompts him* to give “ (Ex 25:3, cf 35:5,21,22,26,29)
 - b) Sacrificially** – People giving important items - 38:22, 27
 - c) Proportionally** – The richest and the poorest could give: gold ⇒ wood & wool
 - d) Generously** – Too much was given! 36:4-6
 - e) Stirred by God's Grace & Glory** – Motivated by thankfulness at rescue from slavery. Motivated by being involved in displaying God's glory to the nations.
 - A Christian has experienced a far greater rescue, and now has an opportunity to be involved in investing in God's kingdom.
 - Our giving should be willing, sacrificial, proportional, generous, and stirred by God's grace and a desire for his glory.
 - 2. God's work is served by the abilities of God's people**
 - God delights to involve his people in the work he is doing. And he gifts accordingly.
 - a) God gives gifts and abilities**
 - Bezalel & Oholiab, to lead and teach a team of many gifted people. 31:1-11, 36:1-2
 - He still does this today, giving different gifts to different people (Rom 12:6-8)
 - b) God gives gifts so that we can serve him**
 - The church isn't a restaurant where we are served by others, but a family business where each plays their part.
 - Don't think you have nothing to contribute! Can you pray, encourage, welcome, provide hospitality, talk to visitors, serve practically?
 - 3. God's work is accomplished by the obedience of God's people**
 - Ex 25-31 – How to make it. Ex 25-40 – How they made it. Identical passages.
 - “Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings *exactly like the pattern* I will show you.” 25:9
 - “as the LORD commanded Moses” 17 times ch 39-40 (note esp 39:42,43)
 - God's work must be done God's way.
 - We are not free to be pragmatic – eg to do whatever works to attract/keep people.
 - Culture mustn't dictate in the church – eg morality, women preachers, worship
 - Christ died for his church – it is his and he tells us how we are to serve him
 - This is the Christian's great privilege - to be involved in the building of Christ's Kingdom, using their resources and abilities to see people come to Jesus.

Good morning and welcome this morning. We are having a bite of lunch after the service this morning and would love you to stay.

Notices

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| Sunday | Evening service at Trinity Hall | 8pm |
| Tues | Bible study at Colin & Caroline's Part 2 and 3 of study 6 - The Art of Living | 8pm |
| Tue-Thur | Milford outreach meetings Cries from the Cross A series of 3 meetings in the Milford Inn | 8pm |
| Sab 8th | Mark will be away on holidays. Rev Knox Hyndman will be taking the service If you are able to provide hospitality please speak to Mark | |
| Fri 27 April | Galway focus evening - Cullybackey | 8pm |

News

Robert McCollum has accepted the call to be pastor of our Newtownards congregation.

Christianity Explored

A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

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