

THE CHRISTIAN'S STEWARDSHIP

Lesson 1 The Principle Of Stewardship

Definition: Manager, caretaker, supervisor of the property of another (the owner).

I) All Things Belong To God

1. What does Psalm 24:1 say about the earth's ownership?
2. For the _____ is mine, and all its _____. (Psalm 50:12b)
3. Deuteronomy 10:14; I Chronicles 29:11-14; Ps. 50:10-11
4. What treasures does Haggai say are the Lord's? (Haggai 2:8)
5. What else is attributed to God originally? (Exodus 31:1-6)
6. Where did Israel get the power to get wealth? (Deut. 8:17-18)
7. What else do we depend upon God to provide?(Acts 17: 25)
8. Is there anything we have that we did not receive? (I Cor. 4:7)

II) Responsibility Of Stewards

1. What is first required in stewards? (I Cor. 4:2)
2. How do we prove ourselves trustworthy? (Luke 16:10)
3. Accountability is required - II Cor. 5:10
4. Available to owner upon demand - illust. borrowed car.
5. Proper and considerate use - Luke 16:1-3
6. For owner's interest - Luke 19:12-27

III) Discussion

1. What about any increase or improvement we make to what God has given us? Whose is it and to what degree?
2. How do you understand the expression "while it was in your possession, was it not your own?" found in Acts 5:4?
3. Comment on Acts 4:32. How could they have this mind set?
4. What attitudes will best produce a sense of stewardship?
5. What behavior changes do you think would come if we adopted these principles of stewardship to our everyday lives?

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Lesson 2 We Are Not Our Own

Introduction: Our souls and bodies are not our own to do with as we please. There is a stewardship of these and to some extent even the souls of others.

I) Our Soul And Life Belongs To God

1. "Behold, all _____ are _____ ." (Ezekiel 18:4)
2. God made us - Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 43:7; Ps. 127:3
3. He sustains all life - Acts 17:25,28; Matthew 6:25-33; Ps. 104:10-24
4. Christians are stewards of their lives twice over - Acts 20:28
5. For you were _____ at a _____ ; therefore glorify God in your _____ and in your _____ , which are _____ . (I Corinthians 6:20)

II) Being Faithful Stewards Of Our Lives

1. What has God required of our life? (Matthew 22:37)
2. _____ they gave _____ to the Lord. (II Cor. 8:5)
3. Is there accountability for things done in the body? (II Cor. 5:10)
4. Discuss the changes in the behavior of a Christian when impressed by his stewardship of his life.

III) Stewards Of Our Bodies

1. Who is said to own our bodies? (I Cor. 6:19-20)
2. How are we to present our bodies to God? (Romans 12:1)
3. No one ever hated his own _____ , but _____ and _____ it. (Eph. 5:29)
4. Now the body is not for _____ but for the _____. (I Cor. 6:13)
5. Discussion: Apply the principles of stewardship to our bodies.
 - A. Not for our own pleasure without owner's consideration
 - B. Proper and considerate use always required.
 - C. Made available for owner's use - II Timothy 2:21

IV) We Are Our Brother's Keeper

1. What is the value of one soul? (Matthew 16:26)
2. Elders “_____ for your _____ . (Hebrews 13:17)
3. Ephesians 6:4 ; Gal.6:1-2; James 5:19-20

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Lesson 3 Stewardship Of Our Time

Introduction: Life is composed of seconds, moments, and hours, etc. "How are we using God's precious moments?" Wisely?

I) Time Is The Lord's - Psalm 74:16,17; 118:24

II) Our Responsibility In Using It

1. Buy it back - Colossians 4:5; Ephesian 5:15-16
2. What does Psalm 90 teach us about our attitude toward time?
3. The brevity of time - Ps. 39:4-6; Job 14:1-2; 7:6; James 4:14
4. What did Jesus teach about time in John 9:4?
5. A sense of urgency - Rom. 13:11-12; Heb. 3:12-13; II Cor. 6:2

III) Accountability To God

1. James 4:15 "Instead you ought to say, 'If the _____ wills, we shall _____ and do this or that'."
2. What time of our life are we to consider God? Eccl. 12:1

IV) Discuss Ways We Can Better Manage Our Time

1. Must time be given to sleep, eating, etc.? Is ever too much of these? Prov. 20:13; I Cor. 6:12-13
2. How about work? Play? Entertainment?
3. What was David's schedule for praying? Ps. 55:17
4. Is sitting and thinking about God a waste of time?
5. Which is more important, a long life or quality life?
6. What do you understand the expression "I don't have time" to mean?
7. Discuss the following:
 - A. Setting goals with our time
 - B. Analyzing how we use our time
 - C. Setting priorities in time use
 - D. Developing a schedule of time use
 - E. How the principles of stewardship apply eg. proper and considerate use, first for the owner's use, not for selfish pleasure, etc.

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Lesson 4 We Are Stewards Of Our Abilities

Introduction: Our abilities are a gift from God and to be used to His glory.

I) All Gifts From Above - James 1:17; I Peter 4:10-11

II) Diversity Of Gifts

1. Now there are _____ of gifts, but the same _____. (I Cor. 12:4)
* These were spiritual gifts, but the principle applies to natural gifts as well.
2. What does Romans 12:4-5 teach about differing gifts? Should there be jealousy among people over who has what ability?
3. Discuss Ephesians 4:7-16
4. What did Barnabas have a gift for doing? Acts 4:36; 9:26-27
5. How is Apollos described in Acts 18:24-28?
6. Does the Lord always expect great efforts for him? Mark 14:3-9; 9:41

III) Accountability

1. For everyone to whom _____ is given, from him _____ will be _____; and to whom _____ has been _____, of him _____ will ask the _____.
(Lk. 12:48b)
2. What can you learn from II Cor. 8:12 about accountability?
3. Unto whom are we to do all Things? (1 Cor. 10:31)

IV) Discussion:

1. Even though the talents mentioned in Matthew 25:14-30 are units of money, what principles of stewardship can you learn from the passage?
2. Where and how is wisdom to be acquired? James 1:5
3. Can we improve our abilities?
4. Are we wrong to ask for more abilities and responsibilities?
5. Name some abilities you wish you could develop?

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Lesson 5 The Stewardship Of Our Wealth

Introduction: If you were given a million dollars, what would you do? Would you be stronger or weaker as a Christian? What would Christ have done?

I) God Is The Owner And Giver - I Timothy 6:17; I Chron. 29:14

II) Good Stewardship

1. Giving to those in need - Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; I Tim.6:18
2. We are to labor so as to "have something to _____ to him who has _____ ." (Eph. 4:28)
3. Providing for our families - I Tim 5:8
4. Cheerfully giving in the church - II Cor. 9:7
5. Giving bountifully or liberally - II Cor. 9:6; 8:2
6. Showing hospitality - Romans 12:13

III) Bad Attitudes Of Stewardship

1. Trusting in wealth - Ps. 49:6-12; I Tim. 6:17
2. Grudgingly using wealth with others - I Pet. 4:9; II Cor.9:7
3. For the _____ of _____ is the _____ of all kinds of _____. (I Tim. 6:9-10)
4. What was wrong with the one talent man's actions? Matt.25:14-30

IV) Giving On The First Day Of The Week

1. I Cor. 16:1-2 commands every 1st day of the week giving.
2. What percentage of our prosperity should we lay aside for God? Mk. 12:41-44; II Cor. 8:1-5; Acts 4:32-37
3. What was required of the Jews? Heb. 7:4; Gen. 28:22; Lev. 27:30-33

V) Warnings About Wealth

1. Be content with whatever you have - I Tim. 6:8
2. Do not let care for them choke out the word - Mark 4:18-19
3. Remember they are temporary - I Tim. 6:7
4. Use them for eternal benefit - Luke 16:9
5. Do not forget to be rich toward God - Luke 12:16-21
6. They make it harder to go to heaven - Matthew 19:23-24

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Lesson 6 - The Stewardship Of Our Religion

Introduction: It is GOD's religion, CHRIST's church, the word of GOD. Sadly many co-op Christianity for own purposes. Pardon the expression, but they bastardize or prostitute it.

I) Stewardship of Our Individual Godliness

- * Sadly many view their religion as a tool for some selfish end - I Tim. 6:3-5
- * Name some others.

- * True stewardship of our faith will be to use it to the glory of God now and to be received into eternal glory after awhile.
- * I Peter 4:11
- * We must be careful someone does not lead us away from the original truth taught of God in the Scriptures. - Col. 2:6-10

II) Stewardship Of Our Organized Religion

- * Ecclesiastes 5:1-2
- * When it comes to "going to church", remember it is a church of CHRIST and good stewardship will guide us to abide in that which he authorized for collective activity. He has ordained that we gather together to study His word, pray, sing, eat the memorial feast and lay by in store. Beyond that we have no permission.
- * Man has abandoned the original intent for congregations and turned them into a multiplicity of others. Name a few.

- * Preachers not to be elevated above that of stewards of mysteries of God - I Cor. 3:21- 4:2
- * "I am of Paul; I am of Apollos, etc. was condemned - I Cor. 1:11-17
- * Elders are shepherds of the LORD's flock - I Pet 5:2-4
- * The Lord's Supper was being abused, turned into a meal for hunger - I Cor. 11:20-34

III) Stewardship Of The Bible

- * It is the word of GOD
- * Some folks twist the Scriptures - II Pet. 3:15-16; adulterate the gospel - Galatians 1:6-10; add to or subtract from the Word - Rev. 22:18-19
- * The word of God is not cunningly devised fables, privately interpreted messages of men - II Peter 1:16,19-21
- * The Word of God is to be preached, not man's wisdom - I Cor. 2:1-13. Restraint is therefore required - My opinion is just that...MY opinion and nothing more. My opinion is not what needs to be preached, but the Word of GOD!

Conclusion: As faithful stewards of our religion, let us be sure to remember whose religion it is.

