

STEWARDSHIP

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:2

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Introduction:

This message goes right to the heart of your relationship with God. Much is revealed when we discuss the topic of stewardship.

We will consider 3 areas of stewardship this evening.

Before we look at these 3 areas I feel that is vital we understand the principles of stewardship.

- Everything Belongs To God.

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Haggai 2:8

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.

Exodus 19:5

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

- Stewardship Is The Management Of The Affairs of Someone Else

Genesis 39:1-6

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. 2And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 5And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. 6And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

Notice:

1. Potiphar was his master.
2. Joseph was the servant.
3. Joseph was made an overseer of all that Potiphar had.
 - Every Christian Is A Steward

Matthew 25:14

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Matthew 25:15

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

- It Is Required Of Stewards That They Be Faithful

1 Cor. 4:2

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

We are told in James 1:17, "That every good gift and every perfect gift comes from God."

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom
is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

As stewards, you and I are responsible to God in the
use of such things.

We will consider some obvious areas over which we
have been made stewards.

1. STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

Ephes. 5:16

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

We need to make every minute count for God. Why?

A. Because of the shortness of time

James 4:14

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.

For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that
appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

B. Because of the seriousness of life.

Matthew 16:26

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole
world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give
in exchange for his soul?

How much time do we really give God?

2. STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TESTIMONY

Philip. 2:15

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

A. We need to never become a stumbling block.

Romans 14:13

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

1 Cor. 8:9

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

3. STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE

The same principles of stewardship which apply to our time and testimony are given for the management of our money.

We must remember that all the money that we have and receive is from God, and is God's.

You may say I've earned my money, but god's Word says concerning this:

Deut. 8:18

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

The stewardship of God's money is usually referred to in the Bible as TITHES and OFFERINGS.

Genesis 14:20

And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Hebrews 7:2

To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; A tithe is 10% of all or off the top of our income.

Some people (Usually those who do not want to tithe) say tithing was an Old Testament practice for Jews only. It was given under the Law; and the Christian is not under the Law, but under Grace. However Scripture does not support such thought.

Notice:

- Abraham Commenced It.

Genesis 14:18-20

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

- Jacob Continued It.

Genesis 28:20-22

And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: 22And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

- Moses Confirmed It

Leviticus 27:30

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord.

- Malachi Commanded It

Malachi 3:10

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

- Jesus Commended It

Matthew 23:23

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

- God Commissioned It

1 Cor. 9:14

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

- Paul Conformed It

1 Cor. 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

A. How should a Christian practice tithing.

- Out of Love for the Lord

2 Cor. 5:14

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

- At your local New Testament Church

Malachi 3:10

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Acts 4:35

And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Acts 4:37

Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5:2

And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

1 Cor. 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

- Those who do not tithe are called thieves in God's Word.

Malachi 3:8

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

- God promises to bless those who tithe.

Malachi 3:10

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

B. What about an offering.

Many people feel that they have done God a great favor by tithing! But we do not GIVE the thith - it is not ours to give. Only after we have faithfully tithed can we give an offering unto the Lord.

Malachi 3:8

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

- Tithing requires an obedient heart, but giving requires a willing heart.

Exodus 35:5

Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass,

Ezra 1:4

And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts,

beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

Ezra 3:5

And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the Lord that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the Lord.

Ezra 7:16

And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem:

Ezra 8:28

And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers.

- If we tithe and also give an offering the Lord will not allow us to suffer and go without the necessities of life.

2 Cor. 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

- God wants cheerful givers.

2 Cor. 9:7

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

C. How is our right stewardship in regards to our time, testimony and treasures brought about? The Bible tells us where it starts.

2 Cor. 8:5

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.