

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of October, 2023

What Does Stewardship Mean?

(Matthew 6:33)

(Sunday, October 1, 2023)

Christian stewardship means the dedication of the whole of life and the whole of God's resources to the betterment of the whole world; it is a sense of moral responsibility for all of life. Christian stewardship is the recognition of God's ownership of one's person, one's power and one's possession, and the faithful use of these for the advancement of Christ's kingdom in this world. Christian stewardship is the practice of systematic proportionate giving. It's time, ability, and material possessions based on the conviction that these are trusts from God and should be used to the benefit of all mankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love. If one is to be a good Christian steward, he must know the meaning of stewardship. If one is to be a good Christian steward, he must know what is required of him. Christian stewardship simply means that God is the creator, owner, and giver of everything one possesses; and man is the trustee or steward of these possessions. In plain terms, a steward is one who administers something that belongs to another.

(Sunday, October 8, 2023)

A steward is:

- An agent;
- A custodian;
- A manager;
- A trustee;
- A representative;
- A person entrusted with the management of estates or affairs that are not his own.

Christian stewardship is putting the kingdom of God first. ***Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."***

Christian stewardship means putting more religion into business and more business into religion. It means partnership with God in business. All of life is a stewardship. Stewardship is all that a person is and has. It has to do with respect

to personality, opportunities, personal services, the exercise of one's talents or gifts, the conduct of one's business, the use of small things, and the use of one's time and of one's money.

(Sunday, October 15, 2023)

Who Is A Steward?

Christian stewardship begins with the decision to become a Christian and it continues throughout life and involves every part of the life of an individual.

Christians need to understand that they have no option on stewardship. One cannot be a Christian and choose to be or not to be a steward. All Christians are stewards! The only choice a Christian steward must make is to be a good steward or a poor steward. Stewardship is a practical, all persons, all-time job. It is not a thing of starts and stops. One is always a steward. Stewardship is not a matter of emotion and impulse. It does not concern just a part of our time, thoughts, and efforts, but it involves the whole person all the time. The faculties and powers we possess have been entrusted to us by the Heavenly Father to be improved and used for His glory. It becomes our duty to improve ourselves in every possible way so that our improvement may mean a more effective use of the gospel.

Man is a steward of his life, time, talents, and material possessions. ***“Know ye not that your body is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” [I Corinthians 6:19-20]***

(Sunday, October 22, 2023)

What Are The Duties Of A Steward?

Responsibility and accountability are both a vital part of stewardship. God has entrusted much of His work to people. Children of God are stewards of God. Each believer has been given an assignment from God. In other words, we who believe in the Christ must accept our assignment and forever be trying to accomplish it.

The first requirement in stewardship should be sacred trust. There is no meaning to stewardship at all until this issue is settled. Stewardship has to do with ownership. As a matter of fact, the original term for stewards meant servant. Servants were owned by their masters; therefore, it was required of them to be trustworthy. Trust is earned.

The second requirement of stewards is character. They are required to have character according to their delegated responsibility. When persons are put in charge of positions or valuables, they are required to have enough character to match the authority. They are expected to possess the necessary virtue of truthfulness, sincerity, and dependability. Reliable character is required for reliable results.

(Sunday, October 29, 2023)

The third requirement is faithfulness. Many are faithful as long as they are being watched. But *I Corinthians 4:2* says, “***stewards must be found faithful at all times.***” They must perform their duties as though the positions and valuables were their own. They who are faithful and reliable will hear their masters say, “come, ye my blessed, and inherit the kingdom prepared for you before the foundation of the world.”

A Christian who lives the life of a steward of God can give cheerfully because the principle of stewardship kills the germ of covetousness. It is easy to give the Lord what is His. *The attitude of a steward toward his money is, “it isn’t mine; it is the Lord’s.”*