

True Stewards

ROMANS 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

GENESIS 15:2 *And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?*

Genesis 24:1, 9-10

BELIEVE.YE.THAT.I.CAN.DO.THIS? 51-0509 *(When we come there to that great wedding supper, and we look across the table at one another...)* And now while we're here together, and all of us longing the same thing, make us true stewards. May we shape our lives by self control, that we'll know by the help of the Holy Spirit to have a full confidence that Jesus will say, "Well done, My good and faithful servant." at that day.

Genesis 24 (Eliezer)

Steward: (Gr.) oikonomos the manager of household or of household affairs of another; to whom the head of the house or proprietor has entrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age; the manager of a farm or landed estate, an overseer; the superintendent of the city's finances, the treasurer of a city.

We are stewards over:

Time

EPHESIANS.PARALLELS.JOSHUA 60-0515E 110 ...The church, positionally, before the foundation of the world, when God in His labor pain was bringing forth, bringing forth you, knowing what you would do, He positionally placed you into His Own Body, to be a housewife, to be a farmer, to be a preacher, to be a prophet, to be this, or to be that. H

WARNING.THEN.JUDGMENT 63-0724 40 ...Every man that come on the face of the earth has to answer to God for a responsibility. And to many of us, a stewardship, we have to answer for... This responsibility is a stewardship that's been committed to us by God; I don't care what it is. As I said a few moments ago, "a housewife," then be a genuine housewife. That's right. If it's to be a farmer, be a genuine farmer. Whatever it is that God has put you to do, you got a stewardship to that; you've got to answer to God for, because it takes all these things to do it.

Children (Ps. 127:3-5)

Ministries (I Cor. 4:1-2 *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

HEBREWS 13:17 *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

TITUS 1:7 *For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

I PETER 4:10 *As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

Talents (Submit that gift to God)

QUEEN.OF.THE.SOUTH 58-0620 18 God gives gifts; He never takes gifts. Your gift remains, but if you be honest with what you got, God will take other talents and just keep pouring them on, if you just keep climbing on.

Money & Assets (I Tim. 6:6-10)

GREATER.THAN.SOLOMON.IS.HERE 61-0515 E-80 Support your pastor; support your church; support the cause that stands for the right things. She (*Queen of Sheba*) said, "If it's not right, I'll bring my money back. If it is right, I owe something to it." That's the way we should feel. If this be God, not only our money--our money's little--but be owing our hearts, our time, our talents; and everything that

we have, we owe it to God. If it's right, let's go into it with everything we got. If it isn't right, go find what is right, then get into it.

GOD'S PROVIDED WAY 53-0513 E-9 What I do with money, the reason that I don't own a big tent, or have places like that. I spend every penny of money, God Who is my solemn Judge knows that everything that I don't have to have to live on, I put it in foreign missions, and go over to the heathen lands to preach the Gospel to the heathen, to bring them the same type of ministry that you see right here. **(Antithesis of modern evangelism)** And then when that day comes, I will... I want to be counted a steward that did just exactly what God would have me to do... And I will use every bit of it, the best of my knowledge for the outgoing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PROVERBS 22:1 *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold. 2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all. 3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. 4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life. 5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them. 6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. 7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

Train: to dedicate, set it in order;

Deut. 20:5 *And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying, What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it.*

Over the average lifetime (25-65 yrs.) a man earns \$2,000,000!

No one plans to fail, we just fail to plan.

\$38,000 is average household debt (not counting mortgages.) Tripled since 1980.

1980 Consumer debt = \$1.3 Tr; 2002 = \$5.9 Trillion!

8.2 credit cards per family represent trillions of dollars.

Many young couples want to live like Mom & Dad when they had 30 years!

Leading cause of bankruptcy: **Home Equity Loans** (Increase 140% in 8 yrs.)

Indebtedness: Medical, Credit Card debt. (1,661,996 Bankruptcies 2003)

Young Girls: Marketed to death for clothes, accessories, etc.

New Cars, "Don't want someone else's problems." **What's the payment?**

70% of Americans live from paycheck to paycheck.

Most often it isn't more money, **but better stewardship** that's needed.

God loves us to death, and because He loves us, He knows how to cause us to change for the better. Sometimes, that means to come down to the bottom of the barrel!

Last thing in the world you need to be doing is living like the cosmos!

2002 Credit card companies issued (opened) 56 million new cards

1929 – 2% of homes had mortgages against them in America

1962 – 2% of homes did not have a mortgage against it!

2001 Personal Savings fell to -2.2% (First time since record's been kept!)

Japan has an 18% savings rate. (Source: Dept. of Commerce.)

US consumes 56% of world's goods; 5% of world's population!

Our commission is not to become wealthy, but to be good stewards!

PROVERBS 22:7 *The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

QA.ON.THE.SEALS 63-0324M 468-6 Should evangelists continue on the field?

In this hour, of course... Certainly, by all means; don't change a thing. If Jesus is coming in the morning, preach today like it was going to be ten years from today, but live like it's going to be at this hour. Don't get scrupled up now. That's why I'm trying to warn you about. Just don't be odd, peculiar. Don't change nothing, but if you're doing something wrong, or doing evil, repent, come back to God. Continue on your evangelistic service just as you always did.

469-1 If you're building a house, put it on up. If Jesus comes tomorrow, you'd be found faithful at the duty. If you're building your church, go on, put it up. I'd rather be putting my money in something like that than be found with it in my pocket. So just keep on; continue as you are... Just go right on just as you are; keep on serving the Lord. Now, for instance, if you was working for a man and you knowed it was fifteen minutes before quitting time, "Well," you'd say, "it's just fifteen minutes more so I might as well just go over and set down." You'd get docked for that fifteen minutes. If you're planting wheat, plant your wheat. If you're digging potatoes, go on and dig them out. Say, "Well, nobody will eat them." That don't make any difference; dig them out anyhow. Just continue on as you are.

469-5 I got a letter from somebody the other day. Somebody told them, said, "Well, the time's at hand. Sell the farm. Now, you won't need the food that you live off of on the farm cause the millennium's going to start, and you won't need it, so you just go ahead, and while the tribulation period's going on, your children's not saved so just let them... Let the children have the farm where they can eat off of it..." I said, "Oh, my." If I knowed He's coming tomorrow and I was a farmer, I'd put my crop in today, sure. If He made me a farmer, I'm going to stay right at my duty. If He made me a mechanic...

469-7 Somebody said the other day... "Say, pastor, I'm going to give you the second set of keys. I've bought a new car, 'cause the rapture might come, you know, and said I won't be needing it anymore." Pastor was going to miss it. See, we mustn't be that way. We must be sane, solid Christian, that I'm put here to work right up to the last minute. I've got a job to do, and I want to be right found faithful at the post of duty. If He comes this morning, I want to be standing right here in the pulpit.

PROVERBS 6:1 *My son, if thou **be surety** for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, 2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. 4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. 5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.*

SURETY: to pledge, exchange, mortgage, engage, occupy, undertake for, give pledges

PROV. 11:15 *He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretyship is sure.*

PROV. 17:18 *A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.*

PROVERBS 13:11 *Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase.*

INVESTMENTS 62-1124B E-9 A fellow that's got money wants to put it to a good investment, of course. A man that has as much as, say, ten thousand dollars, he would like to put it to some investment. Don't keep it in your pocket, 'cause you know thieves will steal it. And so, you don't want to do that. So you want, if you're a good sound businessman, you want to put it to something that'll draw dividends. You want to put it to something to usury. You know about the talents in the Bible. So you must put it to some use that'll draw dividends out of it, some good sound business.

E-10 And then, in doing this, you don't want to put it in something that isn't sound. No man would want to do that. A good smart businessman wouldn't think of such a thing. You men wouldn't do

that, put it in one of these here "get rich overnights and don't know where it come from." Better be careful about that. You'll lose all you got, 'cause it's a gamble. And gambling is not a good sound business. It's a... It's got a chance to it. And you don't want to take them kind of chances. But you want to put it in something, in some good sound firm that pays great dividends, something that's stable, reliable, something that you know that has paid off, and been proven that it will pay off.

PROVERBS 22:2 *The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all. 3 A prudent man (shrewd, sensible) foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. 4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.*

CONVINCED.AND.THEN.CONCERNED 62-0521 E-5 Now, I want to thank you all for this present here, that I haven't yet opened. And then the other night Brother Carlson just went a little against my thoughts when he took an offering and turned it over to me. And I found a good place tonight for it. So thank you very kindly. I sure appreciate that. And I know that after it's come from your hands to mine, I have to be the steward of this welfare of God of this money. And I want to place it to the best place that I know, where something's being done for the Kingdom of God.

Subject: Accountability

MATTHEW 25:14 *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 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.*

LUKE 16:10 *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? 13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

Luke 16:1-15 (Read 14-15 first)

Prov. 22:3 *A prudent (shrewd, sensible, crafty) man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple (foolish, naïve) pass on, and are punished.*

Psalms 119:130 *The entrance of thy words giveth light; It giveth understanding unto the simple.*

Proverbs 1:1 *The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; 2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; 4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. 5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*

HAVE.FAITH.IN.GOD 58-0510 E-9 Billy met me there, just a minute ago, and he said, "Daddy, they took a love offering for you." Wasn't necessary. I don't take money, and never took an offering in my life, but I must have money to exist. I've kept my ministry real humble, so there would not be any great expense attached to it. My expenses only runs about a hundred dollars a day, at home, small office. Now, you say that may be a whole lot of money; what does Brother Roberts run a day, Oral Roberts? Somewhere between seven and ten thousand. Billy Graham's will double it... Sometimes I go hold a

meeting where there's only a church that would hold twenty people, if the Holy Spirit calls. Then I can go to a place where they can have millions, if necessary. Then somebody sponsors that and pays for it. So I just live quietly, and humbly, and serve the Lord. And I thank you for the offering, whatever it is, it'll go to the Kingdom of God, the best of my knowledge. Your money that you placed in, I'm the steward over it now, as a witness of Christ, and I pray that He will bless you for it. I'll do the best that I can to see that it goes towards the Kingdom of God.