

# STEWARDSHIP

1 Pet. 4:10

## INTRODUCTION:

- > A. Steward defined: "One having charge of another's possession."
- > B. Stewardship embraces and emphasizes service. 1 Pet 4:10
- > C. Jesus set the example Jhn 13:15: **His earthly presence; life of service; washing the disciples' feet; having no earthly home and death on cross**
- > D. Nothing in our earthly existence prepares us for our life as a Christian. World says: "get yours while you can," "you only go around once," Lk 12:18 "tear down barns and build bigger."
- > E. We must learn lesson of stewardship to be of value to Christ.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. WHY WE ARE STEWARDS

- A. Master has entrusted the kingdom to men Matt 25:14-30
  - 1. Stewardship is a position of honor - being a Christian is a position of honor. We tend the kingdom as vessels of honor.
  - 2. But it is also a position of responsibility - we will have to render an account.
- B. We are bought with a price - we owe our life to Christ 1Cor 6:19,20; 1Pet 1:18,19:

### II. OVER WHAT ARE WE STEWARDS

- A. "Manifold many sided) grace of God." (grace = unmerited favor)
- B. Grace of time (God has favored us with time)
  - 1. Redeeming the time Eph 5:15,16; Col 4:5,6
  - 2. Most of us think of time as belonging to ourselves. But not true - we are given time to use, but it belongs to God. Time cannot be stored or saved; it can only be used.
  - 3. Ten virgins - proper use of time Matt 25:1-13
- C. Grace of ability (God has favored us with ability) - (Spend some time on this)
  - 1. Differences in ability Matt 25:15
  - 2. Body not one member but many, different members play a part 1Cor 12:14-22
  - 3. All members have not the same office Rom 12:4-8
    - a. Prophecy v. 6 Do according to proportion of faith.
    - b. Ministry v. 7 - let us wait on our ministering:
    - c. Teaching v. 7 - give attention to teaching
      - 1) Teaching may be natural or acquired
      - 2) Elders should be apt to teach 1Tim 3:2
      - 3) The gospel is committed to human hands: we should be sowers of the seed Acts 8:4
    - d. Exhorting v. 8 - give attention to it
      - 1) Some don't like exhortation - call it meddling

- 2) But we all need it, and God commanded it 2Tim 4:2; 1Tim 4:13; Heb 10:24
- e. Giving - with liberality - v. 8 "Give with threes: give something; give by ability; give cheerfully." (scriptural) 1Cor 16:1,2; 2Cor 8:12; 2Cor 9:6-7
- f. Ruleth v. 8 (KJV) with diligence – (Leads - NKJ);
- g. Showing mercy - with cheerfulness - vs. 8
- 4. The kingdom of God elevates service and the servant. Those great in kingdom are servants Matt 18:1-4; 23:11
- 5. All can do something! -- Those great in kingdom are those who wait on the sick, take care of kingdom business, make kingdom grow, lead little ones closer to God, perform selfless tasks, look not for praise from men, give a cup of water in name of Christ
- D. The grace of influence (God has favored us with influence)
  - 1. Everyone exerts influence in either a good or bad direction.
  - 2. Parents especially ought to realize that children are placing feet in prints left by you.
  - 3. How many children are going to be lost by indifference of parents Matt 18:6
  - 4. Don't bring children into world if you don't have the courage to raise them to be Christians. You'll just populate hell with them and self (some make decision to not do what is right Lk 15:11-32 - prodigal son)
  - 5. Let our light shine Matt. 5:16
  - 6. Conversation honest among Gentiles 1Pet 2:12

### III. FAITHFULNESS IS REQUIRED IN USING WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN 1Cor 4:2

- A. A life-long calling, it requires steadfastness 1Cor 15:58
- B. A worthy calling - one of honor 2Thess 1:11
- C. A fulfilling calling Rom 15:13-14 - even non Christians get a life of satisfaction from serving others. There is truly a fulfillment when this world is recognized as vain and empty.

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Work of the gospel preachers to call people to service.
- B. Stewardship requires you to be humble like a small child, ready to do your Master's bidding.
- C. Are we willing to humble ourselves in service to Christ

(Original outline by W. Curtis Porter: revised and adapted by JLH)