Lesson 16 - Christian Stewardship



Scripture tells us that all who do not belong to God through faith in Christ are “under the sway of the wicked one” (i.e., Satan - see 1 John 5:19). It is for this reason that Jesus referred to Satan as the “prince of this world” on more than one occasion (see John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11).

When we by faith accept Christ as our personal Savior we not only pass from death to life, or from condemnation to justification, but we also change our spiritual citizenship from this doomed world under Satan and become citizens of heaven, the kingdom of God.

Therefore, as Christians we are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We acknowledge God's ownership of all that we are and have by faithful service to Him and our fellowmen, and by returning tithes and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church, the body of Christ.

True Christian stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. As ambassadors of Christ, we represent Him here on earth by our faithful stewardship of the gospel commission. This is what this study on Christian stewardship is all about.

1. To whom does this earth and all that it contains belong? Psalm 24:1

---

2. Who did God create to have dominion over this entire earth? Genesis 1:26

---

3. But who claimed this dominion when Jesus was on this earth? Luke 4:5, 6

In the beginning God created mankind to have dominion of this world. But when Adam and Eve sinned, Satan usurped this dominion and became the prince of this world. Therefore, apart from the redeeming grace of Christ, humanity is a slave to Satan. This is mankind's predicament.

4. What did it cost Christ to redeem the human race from Satan's hands? 1 Peter 1:18, 19

The word "blood" in the Bible represents life, and shed blood is life laid down in death (see Leviticus 17:11). This is the infinite price Christ paid to redeem us.

5. What happened to Satan as a result of Christ's death on the cross? John 12:31

The word "Now" is referring to the cross (see John 12:32, 33). At the cross Christ laid down His life in death and paid the infinite price for our sins. Therefore, mankind legally belongs to Christ and when we by faith accept Him as our Savior we also recognize Him as our Lord and Master.

6. Why should Christians glorify God in body and spirit? 1 Corinthians 6:20

At the cross Christ reclaimed the human race as His own, that dominion which Adam had surrendered to Satan at the Fall. As Christians we acknowledge this fact and demonstrate it by our total service to God.

7. How are Christians to acknowledge God's ownership? 1 Corinthians 10:31

Human existence can be divided into four basic areas, each a gift from God. He gave us a body that is capable of doing things, plus abilities, time, and material possessions. As faithful stewards we should serve God in all four areas.

8. What does God require of believers as His stewards? 1 Corinthians 4:2

A steward is a person entrusted with managing the estate of another. Christian stewardship means being responsible for everything entrusted to the believer by God - life, physical being, time, talents, and possessions.

9. As Christ's ambassadors what is our main responsibility? 2 Corinthians 5:20

As God's stewards we are ambassadors for Christ, and our main responsibility is to witness His saving grace to our fellowman. This means sharing with others the good news of the gospel (see 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19).

10. To whom are we to minister the gifts God has given us? 1 Peter 4:10

11. What are we to avoid as God's faithful stewards? 1 Timothy 6:20

As God's faithful stewards we are to avoid any controversy that creates doubts about God or what He has revealed in His Word. By faith we believe the Bible even though it may disagree with our rationale or the opinions of science.

12. What is the "root of all kinds of evil," that we must avoid as faithful stewards? 1 Timothy 6:10

Money is the ingredient that runs this world. As citizens of heaven but still living in the world, it is not a sin to possess money or even be rich. However, we must avoid making money our god. Like the apostle Paul we must learn to be content in whatever condition we find ourselves (read Philippians 4:11-13).

13. What are we guilty of when we are not faithful in tithes and offerings? Malachi 3:8

The tithe is a tenth of all that we earn, and offerings are what we give voluntarily for the cause of God. Failure in these matters is evidence of weak faith. When the Jews failed to pay tithes and offerings, this omission was an indication that they had turned their backs on God (read Malachi 3:6, 7).

14. Who are the two masters we cannot serve at the same time? Matthew 6:24

Money (riches or wealth) is the god of this world. Therefore, one cannot make money one's god and at the same time be loyal to Christ. Being a Christian means we become totally Goddependent and make Him our first priority.

15. On whom must we Christians totally depend for our every need? Matthew 6:33

Please read Matthew 6:25-34. Here Jesus is teaching His followers that when we become Christians we must place ourselves entirely in the hands of God for our support. This does not mean we must not work for our living but that our ultimate confidence for survival is in God who is able to supply all our needs.

16. As stewards what should we be doing with our God-given talents? Luke 19:13

To “occupy” or “do business” means to put our talents to work for the Lord. This is what God expects from faithful stewards.

17. Since we Christians belong to God, how should we live? Romans 14:8

As Christians we must consider everything we are and have as God's - our bodies, our money, our time, and all our God-given abilities. As faithful stewards we join Paul in declaring, “For me to live is Christ” (Philippians 1:21).

18. What attitude did the first believers have regarding their possessions? Acts 4:32

The idea that all we possess belongs to God is not easy for our sinful natures to accept. It is only as we experience the full power of the gospel that we can manifest the self-emptying love of God as the early Christians did.

19. How much did Jesus say the poor widow gave to God’s cause? Mark 12:41-44

This poor widow gave what she really needed for survival. In giving all to the cause of God she was manifesting complete faith in God's promise to take care of her. This is true stewardship.

20. What six things did Paul advise Timothy to pursue to avoid greed? 1 Timothy 6:11

21. What is the greatest battle we Christians face in this world? 1 Timothy 6:12

Because the love of money is the great temptation we all face, Satan takes advantage of this to destroy our confidence in Christ.

Unquestioning faith in God is therefore the tough battle we must all fight. Faithfulness in stewardship helps us tremendously to fight this good fight of faith.

22. What warning does the writer of Hebrews give to his readers? Hebrews 3:12

To say good-bye to your faith in Christ is to say good-bye to your salvation in Christ (see Hebrews 10:35-39). Faithfulness in stewardship is outward evidence that we are walking by faith alone. Here is what Christ will say to all faithful stewards: “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:21). May this be true of you in all things.

Notes

My Response to Lesson 16

• As Christians, all that we have and all that we are belong to God. He has made us His stewards on earth, entrusting us with time, abilities, and possessions. Is it your purpose to be a faithful steward?

Response: _____

Savior of the World Bible Course, Copyright © 1997, 1999, 2000

See Introduction for additional acknowledgments.

Originally printed in the USA by



SW/Gospel Publishing

www.swgospel.com

You are authorized to reproduce this lesson, as is, for the furtherance of the gospel, but not for personal or other gain.