

## STEWARDSHIP FOR THE LORD

(Parua Bay Christian Fellowship - 9/10/94 - EKB)

1. “A steward is a person who is entrusted with managing another’s property.” (Concise Oxford Dictionary.) *Lk 16:1-9, Mat 24:45-51*. **E.g.** I recently visited friends who are managing a large dairy farm on the shores of the Kaipara harbour near Wellsford. They employ workers to milk the cows, fence, cultivate land, raise calves, etc. and they act as stewards for four Auckland businessmen who own the farm.
2. We are God’s property and all we have is His. “**You are not your own**, you are bought with a price,” *1Cor 6:19,20*.  
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, **you are Mine**,” *Is 43:1*.  
“You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God,” *Col 3:3*.
3. God has made us **stewards** of all we are, and all we have, to manage His property for Him.
4. *1Cor 4:1,2*. We are servants of Christ and **stewards of the things of God**. It is required of a steward that a man be found faithful. Our stewardship for God involves all we do. “Whatever you do, **do all to the Glory of God**,” *1Cor 10:31*. “Whatever you do, do all heartily, cheerfully, willingly unto the Lord and not unto men, *Col3:23*, also *Col 3:17*. This means that all we do is our **ministry of serving Christ**, as we do all unto Him.
5. We could look at stewardship in anything that we do, but today I have chosen, “**Time, Treasure and Talent**.”

**TIME** - Stewards to manage our time for God.

1. Each of us has been given all the time there is, and we are to **use it for His glory**.  
*Ps 31:15* – “My times are in Your hands, deliver me from the hand of my enemy.”  
*Eph 5:16* – “Redeem the time because the days are evil.” Time is a precious **gift from God**. Ask Him to show you how to use it the right way.
2. Earmark time each day for fellowship with God, *Ps 63:1*, in **Praise, Thanksgiving, Prayer and in His Word**, *1Thes 5:16-18*.
3. Take time for your family. Time for communication, husband/wife, and to do things together. Be involved together with your children in things that interest them. Gather the family to pray, read the Word and praise God.
4. Give God His day each week. Keep God’s day for God. **It is the Lord’s Day**, *Rev 1:10, Ac 20:7*. Don’t do your own thing on the Lord’s Day. *Heb 10:25, Is 58:13*. Take time to fellowship on the Lord’s Day with God’s people.

**TREASURE** - Stewards to manage our money for God.

1. Not that our money is our real treasure, because Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourself treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven..... for where your treasure is there will your heart be also,” *Mat 6:19,20,21*. Jesus is saying that our real treasure is our eternal life in fellowship with God, which is our inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled, that does not fade away, (like money and things), reserved in heaven for us, *1Pet 1:4*.

2. However the Lord wants us to be good stewards of our finances and says that if we are not faithful in our use of money who will entrust us with true riches? *Lk 16:11*.
3. Good stewardship of our earthly treasure starts with giving God the first part that belongs to Him anyway. We call this the tithe or the tenth part. "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed you?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to contain it, and I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,....." *Mal 3:8-11*. Jesus confirmed tithing in *Mat 23:23* by saying that it is right to tithe what we receive as well as keeping justice, mercy and faith.
4. For 17 years we have been in full-time travelling ministry. For the first 8-9years we received no regular support from any church or organisation and God freely met all our needs. I am persuaded that the key to living in the abundant provision of God is tithing, a practice which we have followed for 30years or more, *Lk 6:38, Phil 4:19*.
5. Almost all our tithe goes to our local church, Greenlane Christian Centre, as our "storehouse." Occasionally some part of it is given to a needy person.
6. The tithe is not firstly from the Law of Moses because Abraham tithed to Melchizedec, an O.T. type of Christ, 450years before the Law, *Gen 14:20, Heb 7:2*.
7. Besides the tithe God's Word instructs us to be ready and willing to support the poor and needy that we have contact with. *Mat 25:35,36,40, Pro 19:17, Pro 21:13, Pro 28:27*.

**TALENT** - Stewards to rightly use our gifts and abilities for God.

1. God has given to us abilities and talents so that we can serve God and others, *Gal 5:13b, Gal 6:10, Mat 5:16*.
2. We may have 5, 2 or 1 talent(s) given to us. If we use them for God, 5 becomes 10, 2 becomes 4, and 1 will become 2, *Mat 25:14-30*. But God warns us against burying our one talent.
3. We may have talents of speaking, serving, singing, music, showing love and mercy, prophecy, teaching, praise, leading others, exhorting and encouraging, and giving to others in need, *Rom 12:5-8*.
4. Find your talent, polish it up and use it for God's glory. Visit the sick, the prisoners and feed the hungry. Extend love and sympathy to the bereaved and keep doing good things to help others.
5. "Each one has received a gift from God and so minister it to one another as good stewards," *1Pet 4:10*.