

- I. Opening Thoughts
  - A. Stewardship has consequences for this life and the life to come
  - B. Jesus perfectly stewarded His life and was the most generous giver ever
  - C. The early church was marked by generous stewardship – Acts 2:45; 4:32-35
  - D. As stewards, we are to invest our time, talent, and treasure for God’s purposes
- II. What is a steward?
  - A. Two ways to see our life and possessions – the perspective of ownership or stewardship
  - B. “If God was the owner, I was the manager. I needed to adopt a stewards mentality toward the assets. He had *entrusted* – not *given* – to me. A steward manages assets for the owner’s benefit and carries no sense of entitlement” – Randy Alcorn
  - C. Three facts distinguish a steward
    1. A steward gladly acknowledges that he or she belongs to the Lord – Romans 1:6
    2. A steward recognizes that everything ultimately belongs to the Lord – 1 Chronicles 29:10-19
    3. Stewards seek to faithfully oversee all that God has entrusted to their oversight
- III. How do we steward our treasure?
  - A. Matthew 6:19-21
  - B. Money, wealth, and possessions are among the greatest idols in our culture
  - C. Stewardship is a form of worship
  - D. Ways to worship with wealth as opposed to worshiping wealth
    1. Jesus is your treasure
    2. More stuff won’t make you happier
    3. Give
    4. Grow in giving
    5. Store up treasures in heaven
- IV. How do we steward our time?
  - A. Work is an act of worship that glorifies God
  - B. R.C. Sproul – “Time is the great leveler”
  - C. Colossians 3:23-24 – A good steward’s work exemplified
  - D. Work should never become an idol because it prevents good stewardship of our time
- V. How do we steward our talents?
  - A. Christians enjoy both Spirit empowerment of their abilities and additional gifts from the Spirit
  - B. Our talents are God-given
  - C. Spiritual gifts are given upon the new birth of the believer. They enhance our natural abilities
  - D. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11
  - E. We steward our talents in seven different ways
    1. God determines which gift(s) we do and do not receive
    2. Different people are given different portions of their natural abilities and spiritual gifts
    3. Ability and maturity are not the same
    4. We steward our talents so that the whole church can benefit
    5. God gives us passions that motivate us toward ministry service
    6. Every talent must be cultivated
    7. We must be willing to serve outside our talent area when the need arises