



Stewardship:

A right perspective and
motivation

- ▶ Stewardship: *the conducting, supervising, or managing of something, especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care*

Some questions about stewardship

- ▶ For what we are responsible for stewarding?
- ▶ What has been entrusted to our care?
- ▶ To be a faithful steward, does that mean that I'm carefully devoting 10% of my annual earnings to God and then my duty is done?
- ▶ Is our stewardship 10% of gross earnings or is it after-tax earnings?

The Right Perspective of stewardship

- ▶ **Deuteronomy 10:14** “Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.”
- ▶ **Psalm 24:1** “The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.”
- ▶ **Psalm 50:10-12** For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. “If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.
- ▶ **Genesis 14:19** “And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth.”
- ▶ **Job 41:11** “Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.”

What doesn't belong to God?

- ▶ The money in our bank account?
- ▶ The belongings we enjoy including the home or apartment we live in, the cars we drive?
- ▶ The talents He gave us in the first place?
- ▶ The spiritual gifts we were imbued with the moment we became believers?
- ▶ The amount of time we have been given on earth?
- ▶ The energy we have for each day?
- ▶ The relationships we enjoy now, or don't enjoy, for lack of proper perspective?
- ▶ Any children we have the privilege of shepherding?
- ▶ The church we attend?

The Wrong Motivation for giving time, talent and treasure

- ▶ We don't give legalistically to atone for our sins or to appease God's wrath towards us.
 - ▶ Eph. 2:8-9
- ▶ We don't give to get - God loves His children without reserve.
 - ▶ Jer. 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.
 - ▶ John 3:16-17 Who initiated and who gave?

The Right Motivation for stewardship

II Cor. 8-9

- ▶ Giving stems from a sincere love for others (8:8)
- ▶ Out of our own experience of Christ's love for us and his profound example (8:9)
- ▶ The law of the sower (9:6)
- ▶ Cheerfully, not under compulsion (9:7)
- ▶ To bring God pleasure (9:7)

A few applications: a right perspective and motivation in action

1. Ask God for a heart of generosity
2. Consider changing your language to remind yourself who owns it all
3. We exhort each other to give generously of our time, talent and treasure because giving away is a critical way we live out our new heart God has put into us.
 - ▶ Determine with God what you should give of your time and talent from a sower perspective of how much can I give, not how little.
 - ▶ If you're struggling to make ends meet....
 - ▶ An important caveat
4. Live contentedly, whether with little or with much, but all with a posture of stewarding God's resources well for his glory and kingdom advancement. Phil. 4:11-12