



Stewardship

These are a few of the scriptures on this subject, it would take a long time and many pages to compile all the scriptures that relate to stewardship, I included the ones that spoke to me and some that were suggested, I am sure that many of you may have a favorite verse that speaks to you about this subject.

Definition: A biblical [world view](#) of stewardship can be consciously defined as: "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."^[2] The central essence of biblical world view stewardship is managing everything God brings into the believer's life in a manner that honors God and impacts eternity. Wikipedia

The word *stewardship* comes from the Greek word *oikonomos*, which means somebody who manages a household.

Is stewardship only about money?

We can see from the definition that it isn't, let's explore what it is!

Mike Glenn a Baptist Minister says

In Genesis. Pretty much everything has at least part of square one in Genesis. It's where everything begins. In Genesis 2:15 we read, **"The Lord God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to work it and watch over it."**(**kjv says to dress it and keep it**) In one sentence, we pretty much have everything we need to know about stewardship. And what is it we find out in this verse? First, God made everything, so God owns everything. **The garden belongs to God. Adam works there, but he doesn't own it.**

Second, Adam is the steward of the garden. **God entrusted Adam to care for the garden and watch over it.** The goal of a steward is to maximize the master's investment. Success depended on Adam understanding what God wanted from His garden then working the garden so it fulfilled God's desire. Adam would be held accountable against God's vision for the garden and his actual work in the garden.

Third, being a steward defined everything about Adam. Even Adam's relationship with Eve was framed by stewardship. He would have seen Eve as a gift from God and understood it was his job to maximize his wife's potential. (That will transform your thinking about marriage!)

There is no greater honor than working with God to fulfill the dreams He has for His creation. Being a good steward is more than just being a good tither. It's being a trusted servant whom God can count on to fulfill His dreams for what He has created. **Stewardship is what gives meaning, direction, joy and purpose to our lives.** There is no higher calling.

This also can apply to our children and those we love, and have contact with. Do you consider it your job to maximize others potential (relationship with Jesus)?

When we consider this it is a lot more than money: it is what we do with all the things that we receive from God. We are caretakers and are responsible for what we do with His gifts.

James 1: 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Moroni 10:8-12 p776 **8** And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God.

9 And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God which worketh all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men, to profit them.

10 For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom; and to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; and to another exceeding great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.

11 And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits; and again, to another, all kinds of tongues; and again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues.

12 And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they come unto every man severally, according as he will.

Mosiah 2: p222 **36** And now, if God, who hath created you, on whom you are dependent for your lives, and for all that ye have and are, doth grant unto you whatsoever ye ask that is right, in faith, believing that ye shall receive, O then, how had ye ought to impart of the substance that ye have, one to another?

37 And if ye judge the man who putteth up his petition to you for your substance, that he perish not, and condemn him, how much more just will be your condemnation, for withholding your substance, which doth not belong to you, but to God, to whom also, your life belongeth;

Alma 2: p311 **19** Yea, seeing great inequality among the people, some lifting themselves up with their pride, despising others, turning their backs upon the needy, and the naked, and those which were hungry, and those which were athirst, and those which were sick and afflicted.

20 Now this was a great cause for lamentations among the people, while others were abasing themselves, succoring those who stood in need of their succor, such as imparting their substance to the poor and the needy; feeding the hungry; and suffering all manner of afflictions, for Christ's sake, which should come according to the spirit of prophecy, looking forward to that day, thus retaining a remission of their sins;

Do we see examples of this around us? What are we doing to help the poor?

Jacob 2:p170 13 For behold, as I inquired of the Lord, thus came the word unto me, saying, Jacob, get thou up into the temple on the morrow, and declare the word which I shall give thee, unto this people.

14 ¶And now behold, my brethren, this is the word which I declare unto you, that many of you have begun to search for gold, and for silver, and all manner of precious ores, in the which this land, which is a land of promise unto you, and to your seed, doth abound most plentifully.

15 And the hand of providence hath smiled upon you most pleasingly, that you have obtained many riches;

16 And because that some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren, ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts, and wear stiff necks, and high heads, because of the costliness of your apparel, and persecute your brethren, because that ye suppose that ye are better than they.

17 ¶And now my brethren, do ye suppose that God justifieth you in this thing? Behold, I say unto you, Nay.

18 But he condemneth you, and if ye persist in these things, his judgments must speedily come unto you.

19 O that he would shew you that he can pierce you, and with one glance of his eye, he can smite you to the dust.

20 O that he would rid you from this iniquity and abomination.

21 And, O that ye would listen unto the word of his commands, and let not this pride of your hearts destroy your souls.

22 Think of your brethren, like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all, and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you.

23 But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God.

24 And after that ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and the afflicted.

25 ¶And now my brethren, I have spoken unto you concerning pride; and those of you which have afflicted your neighbor, and persecuted him, because that ye were proud in your hearts, of the things which God hath given you, what say ye of it?

26 Do ye not suppose that such things are abominable unto him, who created all flesh?

27 And the one being is as precious in his sight as the other.

28 And all flesh is of the dust; and for the self-same end hath he created them, that they should keep his commandments, and glorify him for ever.

29 And now I make an end of speaking unto you concerning this pride.

1John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Do you believe captivity in verse 24 only refers to being in jail or prison? What about addictions to drugs or sinful behaviors? Are there things in your life that you are captive too?

The Four T's of Stewardship: Time, Temple, Talent, and Treasure from accessJesus.com

1. Time – Redeeming the Time That God Has Given You.

God has given us our life and our time to manage as part of us being his steward. As good stewards, he expects us to manage our time, our life, according to his will. We are to redeem the time that God has provided us. Ephesians 5:16 advises us to redeem our time for God's glory. Ephesians 5:16, "*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*"

2. Temple – Care For Your Body, the Temple of the Holy Ghost.

The definition of stewardship includes caring for all things that God has given us. This includes our bodies. As Christians, our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost. If our bodies are to be temples of the Holy Ghost, then it goes without saying that we should not defile our bodies with sin. 1st Corinthians 6:19 advises us that our bodies are the not ours, but the temple of the Holy Ghost.

1st Corinthians 6:19, "*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*"

3. Talents – Use Our Given Talents For Good Works.

The definition of stewardship also includes the making use of the talents and abilities that God had given us. God has given each us unique talents and he desires us to put our talents to good use. As Christians, we can even say that God has ordained us with our unique talents to do his good works. Ephesians 2:10 advises us that we are ordained with unique talents and that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10, "*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*"

4. Treasure – Being Accountable For God's Treasure.

A key definition of stewardship is being accountable for God's treasures. The Bible tells us that all things are created by God and all things are God's. As God's chosen representatives, his stewards, God has given us material things to faithfully administer for his glory. Haggai 2:8 tells us that all material things are God's and not ours.

Haggai 2:8, "*The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.*"

Luke 12:

- 15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.
- 16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:
- 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?
- 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

- 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.
- 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?
- 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Was this man a good steward?

The Gospel Creates Stewards from lifeway site.

The gospel is infinitely more than a ticket to Heaven. It is a message that changes not only a person's destination in eternity, but also a person's heart and mind here and now. The gospel transforms more than a person's relationship to God. It also transforms a person's relationship to everything else.

For example, after the greedy Zacchaeus was converted, he said to Jesus, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much" (Luke 19:8). Today as then, the gospel of Jesus Christ turns lovers of money into lovers of God.

That's why one of the most reliable evidences of conversion is when a person begins looking for ways to use time, talent, and treasure in service to the gospel. This testifies to the value one places on the gospel, that they treasure the God of the gospel above all.

Sin makes us selfish and wasteful with all that we have and all that we are. But "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4) helps us to see that knowing Him is infinitely more important and valuable than grasping the clock and the dollar for ourselves. It causes us to find spiritual pleasure in using these things to meet the needs of others, and to enable them to hear the gospel and turn to Christ. Coming to know Christ through the gospel leads us to evaluate our resources on the one hand and the souls of lost people on the other, and say with the Apostle Paul, "I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls" (2 Corinthians 12:15).

Stewards Need Discipline

The discipline to steward our resources in an intentional, God-glorifying, gospel-driven way doesn't arrive fully formed with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It must be cultivated. Stewardship must be a discipline, for there's always something else clamoring for our resources. Without discipline, our best intentions to use our time, talent, and treasure for the gospel will give in to circumstances and impulses, resulting in inconsistency or neglect.

In a sense, the discipline of stewardship is central to all other spiritual disciplines. If we don't develop a God-centered use of our time, for example, we won't consistently engage in personal spiritual disciplines like prayer or the intake of God's Word, nor will we participate faithfully in interpersonal spiritual disciplines like congregational worship or communion.

One of the classic passages on stewardship is Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30;

- 14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 19:12-27).

12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou

knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

In it, the master rewards those who steward well the resources he committed to their care, and he punishes those who do not. Those stewards whom God rewarded as faithful were intentional about using the Master's resources for His purposes. God is pleased with disciplined, not careless, stewardship of that which belongs to Him.

What does disciplined stewardship look like? There are countless examples, such as scheduling time to meet with God in the Bible and to pray - as an individual and as a family - to make sure it's not squeezed out of your day. It's using your spiritual gifts to serve God and the gospel in your local church. It's designating a portion of money for the church each month before paying other bills, so that the use of your treasure is consistent with your most treasured priorities.

Discipline enters the stewardship picture because it is so easy to waste our time, squander our talent, and be careless with our treasure. But even the most scrupulous use of our resources is worthless apart from the gospel. For it's only through the gospel that we can receive eternal time in Heaven, glorified talents, and the richest of treasures - God Himself.

What are the desired characteristics of good stewards?

Choosing Elders and bishops (stewards for the church)

Titus 1: 5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

1 Peter 4: 8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 3: 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Are we guilty of wasting what we have been given, do we manage our time and resources to glorify God?

How do we use our gifts to serve God?

We can testify of things we have learned, share our skills and abilities, be a lover of hospitality like it said in Titus earlier.

1 Corinthians 4: 1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

How do we steward the mysteries of God?

We have many talents and gifts in the church, some are wonderful cooks, others write poetry, or sing beautifully, and others enjoy serving and helping those in need. All of these things are important to the body of Christ (us). I'm sure you can think of more examples.

What are your ideas and thoughts how you can be a good steward?

If I pay my tithe am I done?

Am I a cheerful giver?

Does stewardship affect politics?

Are we to be careful where we use our resources?

Does it matter who or what we support? What about the below scripture that says when you choose wicked leaders you reap what they sow

[Mosiah 13:35-37](#) Now it is not common that the voice of the people desireth anything contrary to that which is right; but it is common for the lesser part of the people to desire that which is not right;

36 Therefore this shall ye observe, and make it your law to do your business by the voice of the people.

37 And if the time cometh that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you;

Matthew 7: 6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Do we consider our bodies and souls to be those pearls; do we see the connection to modesty and righteousness and proper behavior?

Does society encourage good stewardship, or excessive consumption?

Are advertisements usually for things you need, or to sell you something that will make a profit for another?

Do we wish to be rewarded for our good works; does scripture support this type of thinking?

Matthew 6: 1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

How do we grow our stewardship?

I found one suggestion that we keep a journal of how we use our time, study, good deeds, or is it tv and entertainment, where will Jesus come out on the top or low on our priorities?

At the NY reunion Dennis Trudgen mentioned a similar idea in his sermon.

Mike Bevarrt asked do we want to be healed for our own benefit or to benefit the Church.

Chris Moran asked us are we living up to Gods expectations.

“Use everything you have to point others to God and to advance His Kingdom”. *Art Rainer*

- Do you desire to seek the Lord?
- Do you long to read the Bible?
- Do you want to participate in the life of a local church?
- Do you follow the Lord as he has revealed himself in the Bible?
- Do you work as if you are working for the Lord?
- Does your checking account reflect God’s call on your life as a steward?

Who were the stewards in the scriptures?

Jesus set the example of a mission to improve the lives of all who would listen. He offered them eternal life can you think of a better gift?

Adam was over every living thing

Moses was steward of those he led out of Egypt. He told them the land should have a rest year.

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers only to later save their lives when he was a steward to Pharaoh.

Lehi obeyed and took his family out of Jerusalem and they were led to the promised land.

Any of the leaders that were righteous, had to be stewards of their people.

When we manage people do we consider how to make them better at their mission?

Who else do you think of? Who are the stewards in your life?

This is good information too. www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/faith-based-family-finances/stewardship/stewardship-being-co-managers-with-god

Stewardship

is heart work



"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21