

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, September 22, 2013
Faithful Stewards 2

TEXT: 1Co 4:1-We are God's kids and enjoy many privileges based entirely on that fact. We will, however, one day be evaluated based on how faithful we have been as stewards of what He has given each of us. It is required! **Our fruitfulness and our reward depend primarily on our stewardship.** (Drop and roll, or well done 3:12-15)

We are stewards of time, our bodies, money, gifts, and His message. We looked at time and our body last time. Today I will meddle a little more:

❖ The Message

- Proclaiming the message is the prime directive. Notice Mk 16:15-18
 - There is a hell and those who do not believe will go there
 - Romans 10:13-17. We are commissioned to send and preach. That is all.
- 2 Cor 5:16-21
 - He has given us the ministry of reconciliation
 - God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself
 - 1 Jn 2:1-3
 - Jn 16:9 they go to hell because they reject Jesus
 - Heb 1:3 He has spoken to us in His Son
 - 1 Cor 15:1-10
 - I ain't too proud to beg

❖ Money/resources

- Heart check:
 - Love God, love people, not money. 1Ti 6:10 NLT For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.
 - Giving is the goal, not the means to get rich. Eph 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

- Honoring the Lord is our guide. Pro 3:9-10 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; (10) So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

- A steward uses resources in such a way as to prosper his master. Planning is a Bible principle:
 - Pro 21:5 NLT Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.
 - 1Co 16:2 NLT On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.
 - 2 Cor 9:5 So I have asked these other brothers to arrive ahead of me to see that the gift you promised is on hand and waiting. I want it to be a **real gift** and not look as if it were being given under pressure. (TLB)
- There are three kinds of giving described in the Scripture:
 - Tithes – Heb 7:8 / Mal 3:6-12
 - Offerings – 2 Cor 8:1-5 / Phil 4:15-19
 - Alms – Rom 12:13 / Pr 28:27 / Ps 41:1-3
- If you don't plan to do all 3 you won't – God will always get your pocket change. That is not honor, it is pity. God is not selling pencils with a tin cup.

❖ Gifts

- Find it – Romans 12:1-8
- Form it – Pr 12:27 /24:30-34 / Matthew 25:14-30
- Use it –
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11
 - Eph 4:16 **the Body is less effective without you**

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.

-- William James