

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, October 6, 2013
Faithful Stewards 3

TEXT: 1Co 4:1-7 Let a man so consider us, as **servants** of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. (2) Moreover it is **required** in stewards that one be found **faithful**. ... (7) For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

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, then last itme we got stuck on the Mssage. Today I am really gonna meddle – It's money time!

❖ Heart check:

- Financial attitudes are a heart thermometer
 - Lk 12:34. Where's your heart?
 - Phil 4:15 – It is one thing to say you are partnered, it is another to actually give.
 - 2 Cor 8:8 the love test
 - Col 3:5 / Eph 5:5. Idolatry?
 - Covetousness: *Pleonexía* may be said to be the root from which these sins grow, the longing of the creature which has forsaken God to fill itself with the lower objects of nature.(Zodhiates)
 - Lk 12:15-21. What do you say to yourself during prosperous times? Pr 11:24-26
- Love God, love people, not money. 1Ti 6:10 NLT
- Giving is the goal, not the means to get rich. Eph 4:28
- Honoring the Lord is our guide. Pro 3:9-10

❖ A steward uses resources in such a way as to prosper his master. Planning is a Bible principle:

- A good steward is primarily concerned with the success and prosperity of his Master. Bible giving
 - Brings glory to God. 2 Cor 9:11-13
 - Expands and supports His kingdom purposes
 - Romans 10:15. Send
 - 1 Cor 9:7-11 / 1 Tim 5:17-18. Support
- Pro 21:5 NLT Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.
 - If you are able – bodied, you need to work. 2 Thess 3:10
 - Be a careful spender: Haggai 1:6-7 / Pr 10:4-5
 - Giving in the New Testament is to be planned so that it is not either manipulated form you or given by you as an afterthought. 1Co 16:2 / 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
 - 10% off the top is part of the nature of God from the beginning.
 - This pays for the abundance of the storehouse
 - Offerings – 2 Cor 8:1-5 / Phil 4:15-19 /
 - To support the Gospel
 - To help other churches
 - To finance special projects
 - Alms: Because we are Christians – 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 on the curb selling pencils with a tin cup.