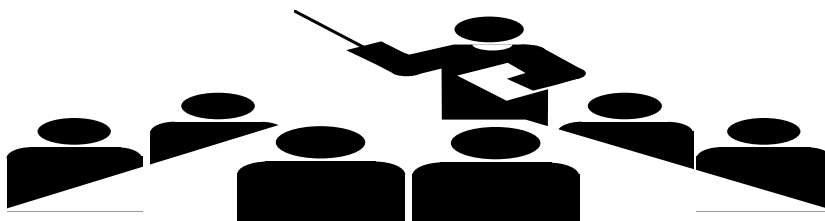


# STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR



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Charlotte, North Carolina



## Christian Stewardship: 6 Lessons

# CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Facilitator

## Lesson #1: The Stewardship of Our Time

Key Verse: Ephesians 5: 16

**SERIES THEME:** Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of that which God has entrusted to us.

**DEFINITION:** Time is the pattern into which we fit God's purpose.

**PROPOSITION:** An important aspect of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of the time that God has given us.

**I. Our time is a gift from God and is more valuable than money.** (Ecclesiastes 3: 13)

- A. When it is lost, it is unrecoverable.
- B. We must ask God to teach us to use our time wisely. (Psalm 90:12)
- C. The poem describes how quickly time comes and goes:

*"When as a child I laugh and wept, TIME CREPT.  
When as a youth I dreamed and talked, TIME WALKED.  
When I became a full-grown man, TIME RAN.  
When as with the years I older grew, TIME FLEW.  
Soon I shall find as I travel on, TIME GONE."*

**II. Our time is the framework within which opportunity resides.**

- A. There is a proper time for everything. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11)
- B. Things must be done at the proper time. (Proverbs 27:23-27)
- C. Our lifetime can be divided into five stages:
  - 1. The years of character formation
  - 2. The years of obtaining education and training
  - 3. The years of apprenticeship
  - 4. The years of productivity
  - 5. The years of counsel
- D. Each day of our lives can be broken up into three parts:
  - 1. Essential hours- hours spent doing things that are essential to our survival; such as eating, sleeping, and working. For the average person: 8 hours of the day are spent sleeping; 8 hours are spent working; and 2 hours are spent eating. Consequently 18 of the 24 hours of the day are essential hours; leaving only 6 hours for the other pursuits.
  - 2. Leisure hours- hours spent doing the things we enjoy; such as recreation, entertainment, and hobbies. The basic goal of our leisure hours is fun and enjoyment.
  - 3. Quality hours- hours spent doing things that improve the quality of our lives or those of others; such as education, family time, church, devotions, clubs, community service, etc.

### **III. Our time and opportunities can be robbed by time killers.**

#### **A. Unnecessary and unfruitful activities**

1. The abuse of the television
2. The abuse of the telephone
3. Idleness (2 Thessalonians. 3:10, 11)

#### **B. Procrastination**

1. Procrastination is the work habit of the lazy. (Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:5; 19:5)
2. Procrastination can lead to poverty. (Proverbs 10:4; 13:4; 24:30-34)
3. Slothfulness can lead to forced labor. (Proverbs 12:24)
4. Laziness keeps one from doing the simplest of tasks. (Proverbs 12:26; 19:24)
5. The slothful is brother to him who is a great destroyer. (Proverbs 18:9)
6. The lazy make excuses for procrastination. (Proverbs 20:4; 22:13; 26:13-16)

### **IV. Our time can be redeemed and opportunities can be seized by good stewardship.**

#### **A. Proficiency**

#### **B. Planning**

#### **C. Prioritizing [first things first]**

1. My time with the Lord (Psalm. 25:14, 15)
2. My spouse (Ephesians 5:22-33)
3. My children (Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4)
4. My church (Hebrews 10:25)
5. My work (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)
6. Other to whom I minister (Galatians 5:13)
7. My personal growth (2 Corinthians 13:5)
8. My rest and recreation (Genesis 49:15)

#### **D. Diligence**

1. The diligent will become rich. (Proverbs 10:4; 13:4)
2. The hand of the diligent will rule. (Proverbs 12:24)
3. Diligence is man's precious possession. (Proverbs 12:26)

### **V. Our time on earth can be shortened or lengthened by our stewardship.**

#### **A. The wise and faithful stewardship of life can lengthen our time on earth.**

1. The fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God add years to life. (Proverbs 9:11)
2. The fear of the Lord prolongs days. (Proverbs 10:27)
3. Righteousness leads to life. (Proverbs 11:19)
4. He who guards his mouth preserves his life. (Proverbs 13:3)

#### **B. The foolish and unfaithful stewardship of life can shorten our time on earth.**

1. The years of the wicked will be shortened. (Proverbs 10:27)
2. He who pursues evil pursues it to his own death. (Proverbs 11:19)
3. He who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. (Proverbs 13:3)

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## Lesson #2: The Stewardship of Our Bodies

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5: 10

**SERIES THEME:** Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of that which God has entrusted to us.

**DEFINITION:** Our bodies are the earthly tabernacles within which our souls and spirits dwell; through which we interact with the physical universe; and with which we carry out God's purpose for us in the earth.

**PROPOSITION:** An important aspect of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of the bodies which God has given us.

**I. Our bodies are to be instruments of righteousness to God.** (Romans 6:12-14)

- A. We are not to let sin reign in our mortal bodies. (12)
- B. We are not to present our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness to sin. (13)
- C. We are not to let sin have dominion over us. (14)

**II. Our bodies are the members of Christ.** (1 Corinthians 6:12-18)

- A. We are not to let anything put us into bondage under its power. (12)
- B. We are not to use our bodies for sexual immorality, but for the Lord. (13)
- C. We are not to join our bodies, the members of Christ, to a prostitute. (15, 16)
- D. We are not to sin against our own bodies by engaging in sexual immorality. (18)

**III. Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit.** (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20)

- A. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. (19)
- B. We received the Holy Spirit from God. (19)
- C. We are not our own. (19)
- D. We have been bought with a price. (20)
- E. We are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, which are God's. (20)

**IV. Our bodies are to be vessels unto honor.** (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 2 Timothy 2:19-22)

- A. We are to abstain from sexual immorality. (1 Thessalonians 4:3; 2 Timothy 2:22)
- B. We are to possess our vessel in sanctification and honor. (1 Thessalonians 4:4, 5)
- C. We are not to take advantage of anyone in this matter. (1 Thessalonians. 4:6)
- D. We are called by God to holiness and not to uncleanness. (1 Thessalonians. 4:7, 8)
- E. We are to depart from iniquity and cleanse ourselves from evil. (2 Timothy 2:19-21)

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## Lesson #3: The Stewardship of Our Treasurers

Key Verse: Proverbs 3: 9

**SERIES THEME:** Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of that which God has entrusted to us.

**DEFINITION:** Treasurers are those things of monetary value that we possess; such as money, property, financial assets, and material wealth.

**PROPOSITION:** An important aspect of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of the treasures with which God has entrusted us.

### I. The first step in the stewardship of our treasures is giving ourselves to Christ.

- A. Once we give Christ ourselves, He has our treasures also. (2 Corinthians 8:5)
- B. Once we give Christ our hearts, He has our treasures also. (Matthew 6:21)

### II. The second step in the stewardship of our treasures is giving God our tithes.

*[10 % of our income is the minimum that we should give as Christians.]*

#### A. Tithing preceded the Mosaic Law.

- 1. Abraham was a tither. (Genesis 14:20)
- 2. Jacob was a tither. (Genesis 28:22)

#### B. Tithing was a part of the Mosaic Law.

- 1. The tithe was holy unto the Lord. (Leviticus 27:30)
- 2. The failure to tithe is a serious sin against God. (Malachi 3:7-9)
  - a. Failing to tithe is going away from God's ordinance. (7)
  - b. Failing to tithe is robbing God. (8)
  - c. Failing to tithe results in coming under God's curse. (9)
- 3. The faithfulness in tithing will result in God's blessing. (Malachi 3:7-12)
  - a. It is a way of returning to God. (7)
  - b. It assures that there will be meat in God's house. (10)
    - 1) Money to support the ministry
    - 2) Money to care for God's house
    - 3) Money to minister to the community
  - c. It results in the windows of heaven being opened. (10)
  - d. It brings God's blessings in overflowing measure. (10)
  - e. It results in the devourer being rebuked. (11)
  - f. It results in others recognizing that God has blessed us. (12)
  - g. It results in joy for the people of God. (12)

#### C. Tithing in the New Testament

- 1. Jesus commends it. (Matthew 23:23)
- 2. Paul taught proportionate giving. (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- 3. Many New Testament passages suggest going beyond the tithe.
  - a. Acts 2:44, 45
  - b. Acts 4:32-35
  - c. Mark 12:41-44

**III. A third step in the stewardship of our treasures is the free-will offering from a loving heart.** (Leviticus 1:2, 3; 1 Chronicles 28:9; 2 Corinthians 9:7) *Reasons for these special offerings:*

- A. God owns everything. (1 Chronicles 28:14)
- B. It is an expression of our love, devotion, dedication and faith. (1 Chronicles 28:16, 17)
- C. It supplements the work of God's church. (1 Chronicles 28:18, 19)

**IV. A major part of the stewardship of our treasures is the wise and faithful use of the 90%.**

- A. Making sure that we take care of our families. (1 Timothy 5: 8)
- B. Making sure that we give to charity and those in need. (Proverbs 19:17)
- C. Making sure that we save, invest wisely, and prepare for retirement. (Matthew 25:14-30)
- D. Making sure that we do not waste God resources. (Proverbs 18:9; 21:20)
- E. Making sure that we are generous. [We can give our way to prosperity.]
  - 1. Proverbs 3:9, 10
  - 2. Proverbs 11:24, 25
  - 3. Malachi 3:10
  - 4. Luke 6:38
  - 5. 2 Corinthians 9:6

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## **Lesson #4: The Stewardship of God's Word**

Key Verses: Ephesians 6:17; 1 Corinthians 4: 1

**SERIES THEME:** Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of that which God has entrusted to us.

**DEFINITION:** The Bible is God's Holy Word, revealed to holy men, whom the Holy Spirit inspired to speak and/or write.

**PROPOSITION:** An important aspect of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of the Word that God has given us.

### **I. Salvation is the basic provision for success in God's Word.**

- A. The unsaved cannot understand the things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- B. The indwelling Spirit enables us to understand God's word. (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:27)

### **II. When used properly God's Word enhances the life of Christians.**

- A. It enables us to grow spiritually. (1 Peter 2:2, 3)
- B. It sanctifies us. (John 17:17)
- C. It cleanses or purifies our lives. (John. 15:3; Psalm 119:9)
- D. It keeps us in times of temptation. (Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4:1-11)
- E. It helps our prayer life. (John 15:7)
- F. It is our weapon against Satan. (Ephesians 6:17; Luke 4:1-13)
- G. It is the basis for our faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3: 15, 16)
- H. It is our guide in life. (Psalm 119:105)
- I. It gives us hope. (Romans 15:4)
- J. It warns us from the experience of others. (1 Corinthians 10:11)
- K. It informs us concerning eternal life. (1 John 5:11-13)
- L. It makes our spiritual lives stable and productive. (Psalm 1:1-3)
- M. It produces and builds our faith. (Romans 10:17)
- N. It is our tool for the salvation of souls. (Romans 1:14-17)
- O. It can help make us successful. (Joshua 1:8)

### **III. God's Word can be used wisely and faithfully by observing the following:**

- A. We should see and treat the Bible as the Word of God.
- B. We should get a good, readable Bible.
- C. We should commit ourselves to reading it daily.
- D. We should learn to eat [digest] God's Word. (Jeremiah 15:16) [*We are what we eat!*]
  - 1. We should pray first, asking God to speak. (Psalm 119:18)
  - 2. We should read the passage. [the paragraph]
  - 3. We should reread the passage.
  - 4. We should let God speak some message to our hearts.
  - 5. We should write down whatever we hear from the Lord.
  - 6. We should pray to God on the basis of His Word to us.

7. We should let our hearts be aflame with the message.
8. We should proceed to put into action what God has shown us.
9. We should share what we have received from God's Word with others.
10. We should thank God for what He revealed to us.

- E. We should set a specific time each day for studying God's Word.  
F. We who are beginners should study the easier portions of Scripture.

1. The Gospel of John
2. The Book of Acts
3. The Letter of Romans

- G. We should build our lives around the Word of God.

**IV. Our wise use of God's Word is enhanced by knowing the approaches to Bible Study.**

- A. We can study the Bible from beginning to end.  
B. We can study certain Books of the Bible.  
C. We can study various Characters [Personalities] of the Bible.  
D. We can study specific subjects or themes.  
E. We can study the Great Chapters of the Bible. (1 Corinthians 13; Psalm 1; John 15; etc)

**V. Obedience is the most important attitude in approaching God's Word.**

- A. Our obedience is a prerequisite for our understanding some truths. (John 7:17)  
B. Our obedience is the source of true blessing in our lives. (James 1:21-25)  
C. Our obedience is an evidence of true discipleship. (John 8:31)  
D. Our obedience will result in true liberation and freedom. (John 8:32)  
E. Our obedience is the evidence of our love for God. (John 14:15, 21-24)  
F. Our obedience is the evidence of our spiritual wisdom. (Matthew 7:24-25)

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## **Lesson #5: The Stewardship of Prayer**

Key Verses: Ephesians 6:18-20; Philippians 4: 6, 7

**SERIES THEME:** Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of that which God has entrusted to us.

**DEFINITION:** Prayer is simply communication with God.

**PROPOSITION:** An important aspect of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of prayer, which God has given to us as a secret weapon.

**I. The wise and faithful use of prayer requires REGULARITY in our prayer life.**

- A. We must seek God's face continually. (1 Chronicles 16:11)
- B. We must pray early (Mark 1:35) and late (Mark 6:46, 47)
- C. We must be consistent in prayer in order to increase our prayer power. (Matthew 17:21)
- D. We must pray continually. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

**II. The wise and faithful use of prayer requires making prayer an act of SURRENDER.**

- A. We must follow Christ's example of surrender in Gethsemane. (Mark 14:32-36)
- B. We must understand that prayer is essential to surrender. (Psalm 143:10)
- C. We must understand that surrender is praying according to God's will. (1 John 5:14)

**III. The wise and faithful use of prayer requires FAITH. [*Believing on the basis of God's Word*]**

- A. Our prayers must be accompanied by faith. (Mark 11:24; James 1:5-7)
- B. Our prayers of faith will be powerful. (James 5:15, 16)
- C. Our faith comes by hearing God's Word. (Romans 10:17)
- D. Our prayer must be offered with confidence and assurance. (1 John. 5:14, 15)

**IV. The wise and faithful use of prayer requires PERSEVERANCE.**

- A. We are always to pray with perseverance. (Ephesians 6:18)
- B. We are always to pray and never to faint [give up]. (Luke 18:1)
- C. We are to learn from the importunity of the relentless widow. (Luke 18:2-5)
- D. We are to learn from the importunity of the relentless friend. (Luke 11:5-8)
- E. We are to keep on asking, seeking and knocking. (Matthew 7:7-11; Luke. 11:19, 20)

**V. The wise and faithful use of prayer requires AN OBEDIENT LIFESTYLE.**

- A. Our obedience affects our prayer life. (1 John 3:22; 1 Peter 3:7)
- B. Our prayer life affects our obedience. (Matthew 26:41)

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## **Lesson #6: Stewardship and the Spiritual Disciplines**

- I. The Stewardship of Our Time & the Disciplines of **Early Rising** and Time Management
- II. The Stewardship of Our Bodies & the Disciplines of **Fasting**, Diet, and Exercise
- III. The Stewardship of Our Treasures & the Disciplines of **Tithing, Giving**, Budgeting, Investing, & Debt-Free Living
- IV. The Stewardship of the God's Word & the Disciplines of **Bible Study, Meditation**, and **Scripture Memorization**
- V. The Stewardship of Prayer & the Disciplines of **Prayer, Intercession, Journaling, Silence**, and **Solitude**
- VI. The Stewardship of Our Abilities & the Disciplines of **Service** and **Ministry**
- VII. The Stewardship of Our Lives & the Disciplines of **Suffering, Sacrifice**, and **Holiness**
- VIII. The Stewardship of the Gospel & the Disciplines of **Preparation** and **Proclamation**