

**THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
PITTSBURGH WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Submit the following report on**

**“CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP”**

**IT IS NOT ALL ABOUT THE MONEY**

**SCRIPTURE I CORINTHIANS 4:2(NKJV)**

**“Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”**

Christians should be viewed as servants of Christ. As Christians, we are stewards, entrusted with the household affairs of the master. God has given us oversight over his church and his world. We are responsible for the management and distribution of household resources.

What is required of stewards? Above all, they must prove themselves to be faithful. Paul advocated that Christian leaders should be evaluated by the standard of fidelity to Christ-their trustworthiness to Christ in handling the household matters entrusted to them.

**I. OF WHAT ARE WE STEWARDS?**

Christians are stewards of life. God, who has given us life, expects us to be good managers of our time, talents and treasures.

My Christian brothers and sisters **“TIME FLIES”**

This is a very plain and truthful message, which no one will deny as fact. Many thousands of people have passed a clock and have, no doubt, avail themselves of the knowledge of the hour; but are not the timely words as to the fleeting of time a plain and solemn warning to all.

Each day brings us closer to the end of our earthly journey, and these timely words are a fitting reminder that “brief life is here our portion.” Because life is fleeting fast, and is brief, it is of paramount importance that we be good stewards over life.

**A. LIFE CONSIST OF TALENTS:**

Talents were a measure of money. Today’s English Version translates the sums to be 5000, 2000, and 1000 which were spoken of in Jesus’ parable. These talents represent the means or measures God has entrusted to His people to carry on his kingdom work in the world today. They are the gifts which Paul enumerates as being distributed by the Holy Spirit in Romans 12, I Corinthians 12:14, and Ephesians 4. No gift, whether we preach the sermon, sing the solo, welcome people at the door, change diapers in the nursery, or hold an office “called steward.” We are all God’s stewards offering gifts for service which are indispensable to the work of the church. Therefore, we are to be good stewards over the gifts which God has entrusted to us. Remember that “It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts; and that God alone decides which gift each person should have.

It could be said that talents are the Gospel itself, the truths Christ preached, the training we have received, the energy available to us, the education and skills we have acquired, along with Christian experience, health, wealth,

time opportunities and effectiveness in our preaching and teaching. These are all gifts which God has endowed us with through the Holy Spirit. From the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has been bestowing on God's servants the talents and gifts needed for doing God's work in today's world. God has given each of us an equal opportunity and has charged us to become good and faithful steward servants of our Lord.

#### **B. LIFE CONSISTS OF TREASURE:**

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out where a man's emphasis is in life. If he places more emphasis on worldly possessions or earthy riches than on Kingdom Agenda, then we think it is safe to say that earthly treasures are where his heart is. Note that earthly riches are not to be laid up, they are corruptible and insecure. In like manner, heavenly riches are laid up because they are indestructible and secure.

Treasures are a measuring stick which God uses to judge how serious we are about stewardship in our lives. Jesus said that "where the heart is" is precisely where a person's treasure is. Good stewardship practices will focus the Christian and cause him to seek the treasure which is eternal; things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are unseen are eternal. At this point our charge becomes clear: Set your affections on things above, not on things of the earth."

## II. WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

We are to learn. As a part of our Christian stewardship, it is vital that we lend ourselves to the study of God's word. Study will enhance one's ability to manage the things of the Kingdom with Godly character and integrity. Bible studies and Church School is paramount in the body of Christ.

As a part of our good Christian Stewardship role, it is our responsibility to teach others. Through teaching, we edify or build up other believers. We are to teach biblical content. We are to train people into obedient action. When we fulfill our teaching mission, we take Christians at every stage of spiritual maturity to the next stage of growth, with the idea that every Christian would progress toward the perfect character of Christ, but none will arrive there short of eternity.

(2 Timothy 1:6 NKJV) **“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”** This only applies if you are an authentic believer. The gift of God that is within you is the Holy Spirit. Every genuine believer receives the gift. Paul told Timothy that I am persuaded of (your) powerful faith.’ I am likewise persuaded that real Christians have the powerful gift within them which enables them to perform all that God requires. Through the gift and power of the Holy Spirit within you, you must fan into flame the Spirit's power. Understand that the spirit only works in cooperation with those who desires his

enablement. If we fan the flame, it will produce the fruit of the Spirit in our **lives.**

### **III. WHAT IS THE URGENCY?**

Jesus said it best in John 9:4(NKJV) “**I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the night is coming when no one can work.***”

The lack of emphasis on Christian Stewardship makes it urgent. Our priorities as believers are not always placed on the issues surrounding Christian Stewardship. For the most part, stewardship has been designated a person’s wallet, **but not his life.** It is urgent that we take another look at what really matters to God. Less we be misunderstood, finances are needed to manage and maintain the household of faith, but God would love to see us manage better the issues of life.

Where are we in our stewardship when it comes to managing the physical, emotional, psychological, economic and social needs of humankind? How does the church invest its resources to address these needs? It is urgent because on many fronts our people are struggling in these previously mentioned areas of life. It is urgent because satan has issued an indictment against the church, which accuses the church of not practicing enough of what it preaches.

Stewardship is more than an annual day, it is a daily lifestyle which says that I am faithful in giving my tithes and offering, and I am faithful over the responsibilities of the life which God has given me. Therefore, my stewardship goes beyond the church walls and it pours over into the world. What makes it urgent? Because today is the only day I can change, if need be, my stewardship of life practice.

### **SUMMARY**

At the end of our earthly journey, let our stewardship message serve as a beautiful lesson so that others may know that we are stewards over our time, talents, treasures which have been given to us in trust by God through the Holy Spirit.

Let our stewardship leave an indelible mark on the lives of all believers which says we have a responsibility to teach and edify other believers.

As we set priorities for the course of our lives may we never forget that stewardship is a matter of urgency because people need our intervention and we only have this moment in time to make an impact on saints and sinners.

**OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE AS FOLLOW:**

- A.) Above all be faithful in what position or duties are assigned to you. We are called upon to be servants of God! This is measured by growth in your auxiliary ministries.**
- B.) As Christians, use your time wisely, for the night is coming when no man can work. This is measured by the increase attendance at Bible Study, Prayer meeting and other learning sessions. We should also spend time in our personal daily devotional reading.**
- C.) As Christians stewards, we are called upon to share our gifts and treasures God has bestowed upon us. Teach your congregation the biblical principles of tithing.**

**Malachi 3:8-12 (NKJV)**

**Do Not Rob God**

**<sup>8</sup>“Will a man rob God?  
Yet you have robbed Me!**

**But you say,**

**‘In what way have we robbed You?’**

**In tithes and offerings.**

**<sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse,  
For you have robbed Me,  
*Even this whole nation.***

**<sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,  
That there may be food in My house,**

**And try Me now in this,”  
Says the LORD of hosts,  
“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven  
And <sup>pour</sup> out for you *such* blessing  
That *there will not be room enough to receive it.***

**<sup>11</sup> “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,  
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,  
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”  
Says the LORD of hosts;  
<sup>12</sup> “And all nations will call you blessed,  
For you will be a delightful land,”  
Says the LORD of hosts.”**

**This is measured by an increase in our finances.**

**Be a good steward over life because we only get one shot  
at it to get it right.**

**Prayerfully submitted**

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