

CHAPTER TWO

# THE RESPONSIBLE STEWARD

Stewardship involves managing someone else's property. The Christian is steward of both his life and his possessions, since both belong to God. As those who are accountable to God, we should become responsible stewards of our time, money, gifts, and bodies.

## STEWARDS OF GOD'S RESOURCES

1. What does Paul teach about stewards in 1 Corinthians 4:2?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Using a cross-reference, explain what this means to you.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are some areas in which God expects you to be a faithful steward?

*Proverbs 3:9-10* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Romans 12:6* \_\_\_\_\_  
*1 Corinthians 6:19-20* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Ephesians 5:15-16* \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the basis on which servants are found faithful?  
*Matthew 25:14-30*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## USE OF TIME

Every man, woman, and child has been entrusted with 168 hours each week. Are you investing your time wisely each week, or are you spending it? Spending is final, while an investment produces a return. How you use your time indicates your real priorities.

4. Read *Matthew 6:25-34*.  
a. What two things are believers told to seek? *Verse 33*

b. Define the kingdom of God. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Define the righteousness of God. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Now write *Matthew 6:33* in your own words, using your definitions for God's kingdom and righteousness.

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5. Read 1 Timothy 3:4-5,12. In God's value system, what comes before caring for the church?

6. How important did Paul consider work?  
*2 Thessalonians 3:7-9*

7. Number the following items in order of priority as they currently exist in your life. Then number them again according to what you think are God's priorities for your life.

EXISTING PRIORITIES	GOD'S PRIORITIES
_____ Job (your chosen profession or occupation)	_____
_____ God (developing your relationship with him)	_____
_____ Family (your loving care and instruction)	_____
_____ Ministry (your personal outreach and witness)	_____
_____ Other (personal emphasis—social activities, hobbies, entertainment)	_____

8. After comparing God's priorities with yours, you may want to make changes in your weekly schedule so that what you do coincides with God's priorities for your life. Is there any change in your weekly schedule that you believe you should make? If so, write it here.

You should continually evaluate how you invest your time and maintain the right balance in the different activities God wants you to be involved in.

9. Read Ephesians 5:15-21. What does Paul say about making the best use of time? How can you put his advice into practice?

How to make wise use of your time:

*Prayerfully planning*—List things to be done in order of priority. (Good things in life can often crowd out the best things.)

*Obedient selection*—Do the most important tasks first, and in faith commit unfinished ones to the Lord. (Many things that initially appear urgent may not be.)

*Concentration and diligence*—Do the task you select wholeheartedly. Do one thing at a time and stay with it until it is finished.

### USE OF GIFTS

10. How should we use the gifts God has given us? *1 Peter 4:10*

11. Read Romans 12:3-8.

a. List the different gifts God gives to Christians. (Define any terms you do not understand.)

b. How should a believer view himself and his gifts? *Verse 3*

c. Summarize Paul's teaching on how believers should use the gifts God has given them.

God has designed each person's appearance, voice pattern, abilities, strengths, weaknesses, and other characteristics, as well as his spiritual gifts. Each person is to share himself in the body of Christ by demonstrating Christlike attitudes and by building up other Christians through the use of his God-given resources.

**12.** The apostle Peter might have listed three of his strengths as enthusiasm, leadership, and speaking, while one of his weaknesses would be impulsiveness. List three of your strengths and one weakness.

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Choose one of your strengths. How can you use it to serve others?

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## USE OF MONEY

**13.** Why is it important to have the proper attitude toward money? *1 Timothy 6:10*

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**14.** The five verses below are related to the use of money. Match the following.

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|--|-------------------|
| ___ Earning money to give to others              | a. Proverbs 20:10 |
| ___ Warning concerning the acquisition of wealth | b. Proverbs 22:7  |
| ___ Borrowing money and going into debt          | c. Luke 12:15     |
| ___ Integrity in money matters                   | d. Luke 16:11     |
| ___ Proper use of money                          | e. Ephesians 4:28 |

**15.** Read 2 Corinthians 9. What principles of giving can you discover in each of the following verses?

*Verse 6* \_\_\_\_\_

*Verse 7* \_\_\_\_\_

*Verse 8* \_\_\_\_\_

*Verse 12* \_\_\_\_\_

*Verse 13* \_\_\_\_\_

*Verse 15* \_\_\_\_\_

Many Christians have found a regular plan for giving to be both scriptural and practical. Planning ensures against irregular or unwise giving or neglect. In a day when so many demands are made on your time and money, planned giving helps you honor the Lord with your possessions.

Your plan should include these steps:

1. Thoughtfully decide what percentage of your income you will return to the Lord—a minimum percentage.
2. Set aside the Lord's portion first whenever you receive money. Put this aside to be used as he leads; once set aside, it is his and should not be used for other purposes.
3. Prayerfully distribute the Lord's money as he directs. It is usually good to do this at a regular time—weekly or monthly. Make extra gifts and increase your giving as God increases your faith and as he prospers you. As you trust God with your material resources, he will trust you with his spiritual resources—he has committed himself to this principle (Luke 16:9-12; Philippians 4:17).

The person who dedicates his money to God is dedicating himself—the fruit of his time, talent, and energy. One who fails to dedicate his money has not fully committed himself to God.

**16.** Write a statement explaining the truth of Mark 12:41-44.  
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Use the space below to record your plan for giving.

**MY PLAN FOR GIVING**

To whom I plan to give: \_\_\_\_\_  
 The amount I will give: \_\_\_\_\_  
 When I plan to give: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Why I plan to give: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**CARE OF THE BODY**

**17.** Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What does it mean for you to be the temple of the Holy Spirit?  
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**18.** Read Romans 12:1.

a. What did Paul urge you to do with your body?  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**19.** What was John concerned about besides our spiritual well-being? *3 John 2*

Treat your body with care because it is the temple of the Holy Spirit. You will think and feel better when you have proper nourishment, sleep, and exercise.

**20.** From the following list, prayerfully choose an area in which you can improve the care of your body. How do you intend to change in this area?

Maintaining a proper diet \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exercising regularly \_\_\_\_\_  
 Getting sufficient rest \_\_\_\_\_  
 Avoiding harmful habits \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember These Points**

Using the chapter subtopics as an outline, write your own summary of this chapter.  
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