

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

LESSON ONE: INTRODUCTION

I. IMPORTANCE OF STEWARDSHIP

A. Definition

A steward is a manager or caretaker of something that belongs to others. Biblical stewardship is the faithful management of everything God has entrusted to men for His glory and purposes. It begins with the recognition that God is the ultimate owner of all things—creation, time, abilities, relationships, and material possessions—while men are caretakers accountable to Him. From the opening chapters of Genesis, stewardship is first seen in man’s responsibility to rule over and care for the earth under God’s authority. In other words, biblical stewardship is God’s design and purpose for man.

B. Implication

Biblical stewardship involves using resources wisely, not selfishly, and aligning decisions with God’s will as revealed in Scripture. “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). It includes managing time diligently, exercising spiritual gifts to serve others, handling finances with integrity, caring for the needs of the poor and most importantly for the furtherance of the gospel. Faithfulness, not ownership, is the key principle; stewards are evaluated based on how responsibly and obediently they carry out their entrusted roles.

C. Purpose

At its heart, biblical stewardship is an act of worship and service, reflecting a heart transformed by God’s grace. It calls believers to live with eternal perspective, conforming their lives in what pleases God rather than earthly pleasures and material indulgence. Ultimately, biblical stewardship is about honoring God and glorifying Him as Lord over every aspect of life.

II. OVERVIEW

A. Understanding Stewardship Through the Ten Commandments

- Stewardship is rooted in obedience to God’s law
- Each commandment teaches responsibility toward God and others

B. God is the Owner

- We are stewards, not owners
- Everything belongs to God (Psalm 50:10–12)

C. Redeeming Time

- Time is a divine gift
- We are not to waste time but to “redeem the time” (Ephesians 5:16)

D. Exercising Spiritual Gifts

- Every believer has God-given spiritual gift or gifts
- We are dutybound and accountable to use them (1 Peter 4:10)

E. Managing Resources

- Money, possessions, and opportunities must be wisely handled
- Avoid waste and misuse

F. Giving Tithes and Offerings

- Honoring God with our substance
- A test of faith and obedience (Malachi 3:10)

G. Giving Alms

- Caring for the poor and needy
- Reflecting God's compassion (Matthew 6:1–4)

H. The Parable of the Talents

- Accountability for what God entrusts
- Reward for faithfulness (Matthew 25:14–30)

I. Faithful Steward: Joseph

- Faithful in adversity and prosperity
- Managed responsibility with integrity (Genesis 39–41)

J. Generous Steward: Barnabas

- A life marked by giving and encouragement (Acts 4:36–37)
- No holding back for self indulgence and enjoyment

K. Perfect Steward: Jesus

- The ultimate example of stewardship
- Fully submitted to the Father's will (John 17:4)

III. SUMMARY

In summary, biblical stewardship is a biblical way of life rooted in the recognition of God's ownership and human responsibility. It calls believers to faithfully manage all that they have been given, live with eternal perspective, practice generosity, and remain accountable to God. Through stewardship, believers demonstrate their faith, reflect God's character, and participate in His redemptive purposes in the world.

Ultimately, biblical stewardship is an act of worship. It reflects a heart that acknowledges God's sovereignty and responds with gratitude and obedience. It shifts the focus from self-centered living to God-centered living, where every aspect of life is surrendered to His will. May we who are God's people be found faithful as stewards of God when we meet our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ face to face. Amen.