

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

LESSON SIX: MANAGING RESOURCES

I. INTRODUCTION

Stewardship is not merely about money. It is about life. It is about recognizing that everything we are and everything we have comes from God and ultimately belongs to Him. We are not owners. God is. We are mere stewards entrusted with divine resources for a divine purpose.

How then should we manage the resources God has entrusted to us? This is not a theoretical issue. It is deeply personal. It affects how we live daily – how we spend, give, save, speak, do, serve, and make decision. As stewards, we are accountable to God. Our decisions how we manage the resources must align with His will as revealed in His infallible, inerrant, inspired and preserved Word.

II. DEFINING RESOURCES

The word “resources” often implied money. However, there is a much broader understanding of resources which God has entrusted to His people. There are at least 4 categories of resources as follow:

A. Material Resources: Money, Property and Possessions

B. Non-Material Resources: Time and Strength (Health)

C. Spiritual Resources: Spiritual Gifts, Knowledge of God’s Word and Ministry (Service)

D. Relational Resources: Kinship, Friendship and Working (Study) Relationships

III. BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF MANAGING RESOURCES

A. Faithfulness

God does not require and demand the management of resources by worldly standards. It is faithfulness He is looking for. This is based on 1 Corinthians 4:2, “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” Faithfulness implies there is reliability, consistency and trustworthiness in using the resources according to what God wants.

B. Accountability

As stewards are to be faithful with the resources given, it means they are accountable to the Giver who is God Himself. This is based on Romans 14:12, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Every decision matters such as every dollar spent or wasted; every hour used or wasted; every opportunity taken or missed. We live under divine accountability all the time.

C. Wisdom

As redeemed people of God, we are saved unto salvation (see Ephesians 2:10). We are to live as wise, not as fools. Psalm 90:12, “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” Wisdom helps us to make sound decisions, avoid waste, and discern priorities. Without God’s wisdom, even the best resources can be poorly managed or mismanaged.

D. Contentment

True wisdom leads to contentment according to 1 Timothy 6:6, “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” Contentment implies giving thanks to God for His provision. There is no murmur or complain. Biblical contentment protects us from greed or covetousness, comparison and endless dissatisfaction. A content heart is essential for faithful stewardship.

E. Eternal Perspective

The way we pursue and use our resources on earth reveal ironically our eternal perspective. The Lord told His disciples in Matthew 6:20 to “... lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” Such a language reveals a deeper meaning in which we make all decisions according to eternal perspective. This is what it means to live with eternity’s value in view.

IV. PRACTICAL STEPS OF MANAGING RESOURCES

A. Material Resources

1. Earning Rightly: We must earn honestly. Proverbs 13:11, “Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished...” God honors integrity, not shortcuts.
2. Spending Wisely: Spending reflects priorities. Questions to consider: Is this necessary? Does this honor God? Is this wise long-term? Uncontrolled spending leads to waste and regret.
3. Saving Prudently: Proverbs 6:6–8 points to the ant as an example. Saving is wise, responsible and forward-thinking. It prepares us for future needs and opportunities.
4. Giving Generously: Giving is central to stewardship. 2 Corinthians 9:7, “God loveth a cheerful giver.” Giving breaks the power of materialism. It demonstrates trust in God. It meets real needs.
5. Avoiding and Managing Debt: Proverbs 22:7, “... the borrower is servant to the lender.” Debt limits freedom. Wise stewardship seeks minimal debt, responsible repayment, and financial discipline. Possessions are tools entrusted to us.

B. Non-Material Resources

1. Redeeming the time: Time is more valuable and precious than any material resources. Money lost can be earned back but time lost is gone forever. Ephesians 5:16, “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Not only we must not waste any time, we make sure we spend our time wisely. Otherwise, it could be far worse than mere wasting time.
2. Caring for the Body: 1 Corinthians 6:19, “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” To glorify God in our body implies taking good care of it so that God may use it according to His will. If we neglect the body or let it be harmed without taking necessary precaution is the failure to honour God with it.

C. Spiritual Resources

1. Exercising Spiritual Gifts: Every believer is given a spiritual gift to edify the body of Christ. Some may be given more. It is up to God to give, but each one will have at least one spiritual gift to minister. The failure to exercise the spiritual gift is to deprive the body of Christ from the blessings God has intended for her.

2. Increase in the Knowledge of God's Word: 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." It is God's will that spiritual our knowledge will increase more and more so that we will do His will faithfully as His people in these last days. The reason God reveals Himself in the Holy Scripture is that we may know Him and make Him known to the whole world. We are called to be holy witnesses in order to testify Christ and His saving gospel.
3. Abounding in the Lord's Service: 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." This is what we are saved for. We are saved unto good works. Whatever role we are given whether at home, in school or church, we do it unto the Lord. Service to God is never confined only within the four walls of the church. We are Christians wherever we go and we can serve the Lord by performing our role well and faithfully. We count it a privilege to be able to serve the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords. It is never enough to serve the One, living and true God and give Him our all and best.

D. Relational Resources

1. Kinship: These refer to family relationships usually form the earliest and often most enduring support system in the home. Managing kinship means spending time, care, and guidance into family members, honoring parents, and raising children in godliness. It involves using resources such as time, finances, and attention in order to strengthen the household as a testimony of God's order and love.
2. Friendship: There are two types of friends: Believers and unbelievers. Relationships with unbelieving friends are opportunities to witness and show forth the image of Christ so that they may be driven to Him for salvation. Relationships with believing friends are opportunities to encourage righteousness, accountability, and mutual growth (see Proverbs 27:17). Be a blessing, not a burden.
3. Working/ Study Relationships: these types of relationships are a stewardship of vocation and witness. Believers are called to diligence, integrity, and service in all they do (Colossians 3:23). Managing these relationships includes practicing fairness, respect, and cooperation, whether with colleagues, supervisors, or classmates. It also involves using opportunities to reflect Christ through attitude and conduct, contributing positively to the environment.

V. SUMMARY

All of us have a life to account to God one day. The question asked on that day will not be, 'How much resources have you accumulated?' but rather, 'What did you do with the resources put under your charge?' Have we used the resources faithfully for God's glory or have we wasted and used them for self-glory?

Managing resources faithfully is both our responsibility and accountability towards God. May we live as faithful stewards so that we may receive the commendation "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" from the righteous Judge, who is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May God help us. Amen.