

# STEWARDSHIP STUDY RECAP

The Biblical stewardship study that was published as part of the *Calvary Comment* over the past 10 months has completed. But finishing the study doesn't signal us to stop. Our Lord encourages us to continue to hear and study. Hearing and studying the God's Word brings us closer to Him and guides us in His ways. Recall how Jesus says: **"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."**(Jn 10:27) The Psalmist also writes: **"Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."**(Ps 119:105) The Scriptures are God's guidance to us. Each portion that is spoken or studied offers us a divinely-steered perspective and prompts us to delve deeper into our relationship with God.

Stewardship is a mind, heart, faith, and disciple issue. Stewardship is also being involved in God's plan, which involves each of us spreading the Good News. God's plan involves each of us working to complete His plan. Stewardship involves grasping *opportunities*, giving our *abilities* selflessly, and using our *wealth*, because God has asked us. He finds us responsible. He holds us accountable. And He provides His Word to supply us insight and answers.

The introduction to the 10-month study quoted Usain Bolt, a gold Medalist at the 2012 Olympics: *"I want to thank God for everything He as done for me 'cause without Him none of this wouldn't be possible."* Indeed, that is also true for each of us.

During a long series, I often lose focus on where I started. So what follows is a basic summary of what the 10-lesson Stewardship Study taught, providing the title, objective, Scripture text, and a key thought from each lesson. *(Hard or digital copies of each of the lessons are also available upon request to any member of the Stewardship Board: Woody Flickinger, Briana Smith, Cory Pomeroy, Essence & Trent Dietrich.)*

*Woody Flickinger*

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## LESSON 1 – GOD'S OWNERSHIP OVER ALL

**Objective:** To surrender everything we have to God because we can rest in His ownership of all.  
**Scripture Text:** Genesis 1 & 2.  
**Key Thought:** As Christian stewards we must realize that in Christ *"we live and move and have our being."* (Ac 17:28) Not to acknowledge and act upon God's total ownership of everything we are, have, and will be is to rob ourselves of His blessing and make ourselves unfit for His service.

## LESSON 2 – WHAT IS BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP?

**Objective:** To define Biblical Stewardship and to contrast it with the "Ownership" mind-set of modern society.  
**Scripture Text:** 1 Corinthians 4  
**Key Thought:** Biblical Stewardship is a way of living grounded in what the Bible tells us about our lives as God's people in God's created world.

## LESSON 3 – STEWARDSHIP: IT'S A MATTER OF TRUST

**Objective:** To realize what God has entrusted to us and to be trustworthy of His gifts.  
**Scripture Text:** Matthew 25:14–30; Luke 16:1–13  
**Key Thought:** When was the last time you handed something to someone else to take care of for you? We cannot learn to become good stewards unless someone is willing to trust us first.

#### **LESSON 4 – STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TIME/OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE PRESENTED TO US**

**Objective:** To become wise stewards of all that God has created us to be individually.

**Scripture Text:** Psalm 90

**Key Thought:** Does the principle of giving apply equally to our time as it does to our money? How much of our time should we set aside for the work of the Lord each week? How are you using the time God has given you?

#### **LESSON 5 – STEWARDSHIP OF OUR BODIES**

**Objective:** To surrender our bodies to Christ, from the heart.

**Scripture Text:** 1 Peter 4

**Key Thought:** Since God wants us to live a holy life, the enemy seeks to entrap us in sin and defeat. God created our bodies for His glory. By surrendering them to Him, He can use us to further His kingdom and help us grow in our faith.

#### **LESSON 6 – STEWARDSHIP OF OUR ABILITIES/TALENTS AND GIFTS**

**Objective:** To recognize our abilities and talents and to surrender them to God for His use and glory.

**Scripture Text:** 1 Corinthians 12

**Key Thought:** God created us with a great variety of abilities / talents. Each of us has a unique function to perform in life and in the Body of Christ.

#### **LESSON 7 – STEWARDSHIP OF OUR WEALTH/MONEY, PART 1**

**Objective:** To understand the teachings of the Old Testament regarding stewardship of our possessions, specifically about money.

**Scripture Text:** Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 14:22–29

**Key Thought:** The Old Testament contains many references to money and possessions. The concept of stewardship was an integral part of the history of God's people.

#### **LESSON 8 – STEWARDSHIP OF OUR WEALTH/MONEY, PART 2**

**Objective:** To understand the teachings of the New Testament regarding stewardship of our possessions, specifically about money.

**Scripture Text:** 2 Corinthians 8 & 9

**Key Thought:** Our attitude toward money is greatly affected by our concept of ownership. If we believe that all we possess has been entrusted to us by God and that we are to manage it on God's behalf, we will have a much easier time negotiating Jesus' teachings in this area

#### **LESSON 9 – THE CHURCH'S STEWARDSHIP**

**Objective:** To understand the needs of financial support in the local congregation and the larger church.

**Scripture Text:** 2 Corinthians 9

**Key Thought:** God has been very clear in His Word regarding the uses of the funds the church receives from the weekly offerings. The advancement of God's Kingdom is to a degree dependent upon our offerings. However, both the local church and the national Church must be good stewards of that money.

#### **LESSON 10 – OUR ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD**

**Objective:** To recognize our ultimate accountability to God.

**Scripture Text:** Luke 19:12–27; Matthew 24 & 25

**Key Thought:** By storing up treasures on earth, we take on the appearance of the world. By laying up treasures in heaven, we declare the glory of His kingdom. God will hold us accountable for our motivation in giving.