

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

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## A Steward of God

There are several terms used within the scriptures that both refer to and describe Christians, such as "servants," "ambassadors," and "saints," but I would like us to spend some time examining another term found in God's Word that is used to signify those that belong to Christ- "steward."

At first glance, the word steward might seem like just another word for servant, and that the two are interchangeable. Well, yes and no. Yes, a steward is a *kind* of servant, but no, the two are not interchangeable. This is because a steward is a servant given a very specific and important task. Just as how in wealthy estates of old they had cooks, maids, chauffeurs, and more, each with their own skill set and responsibilities, we today serve Christ in many different ways.

So what, then, is a steward, exactly? Well, according to Merriam-Webster, it is "one

employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns (as the supervision of servants, collection of rents, and keeping of accounts)." Put simply, a steward is someone that, while not the owner, has responsibility for the caretaking of something, be it a business, house, or country. From the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary: "The Biblical concept of stewardship, beginning with Adam & Eve and developed more fully in the New Testament, is that God is owner and provider of all that any of us possess. Since all belongs to Him, it is incumbent that all be used for His purposes and glory. A collective responsibility was given to mankind to have dominion over the earth, care for it, and manage it for His glory."

But what is it that we are to keep? What are we to be good stewards of in this life? Let's look at some passages.

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God." (1 Cor. 4:1-5)

Here we see what it means to be a good steward: to be faithful. Not long ago there was an article in the Children's Bulletin talking about faithfulness, and it said that being faithful means being loyal and trustworthy. So, are you trustworthy? Are you dedicated to the Lord's work? If any of us are found to be unfaithful, to not take care of what we have been entrusted with, we will answer for that.

"And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that

servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.'" (Luke 12:42-46)

Obviously this has to do largely with the fact that Jesus will come again, at a time which we do not know or expect, and that with such in mind we need to be careful with how we live in the present. But also this passage illustrates the simple task of being a steward (manager): to take care of what is in our charge in our master's stead. So are we doing as God would have us do, or are we doing whatever we please, as if we had no one to whom we must answer?

Still, the question remains, what is it that we are to be good stewards of, exactly? The short answer is: everything that God provides for us. That means our jobs, our money, our families, the work of the Church... the list is endless, really.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him

belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Pet. 4:10-11)

There you have it. Superseding everything else, more than we must be good stewards of our finances, or our families, or our time, we are stewards of God's grace. He showed His grace to us through the sacrifice of Jesus; how, then, are we using it? It's not that if we don't take care of His grace it will break or wear away- that's not how grace works, or how the Lord works. No, the idea here is that we must do all that we can to make sure His grace is made known among men; He has given us this to use and wants a good return on it.

Finally, we see that in addition to everything we've already read and understood to apply to all Christians, elders are stewards in a larger capacity. "For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it." (Titus 1:7-9)

Stewardship is not a thing to be taken lightly! Realize that God has created all and is in control of all; He entrusts us with this life. Use it for Him!

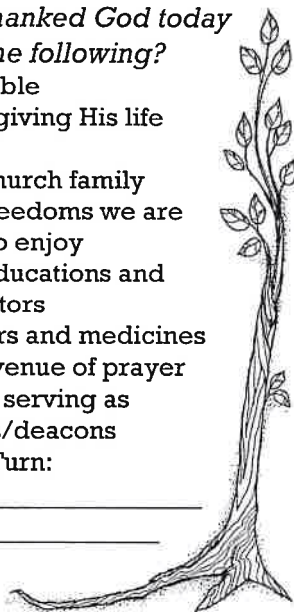
Jarred Currence

**DEAR GOD,  
I WANNA TAKE A  
MINUTE, NOT TO ASK  
FOR ANYTHING FROM  
YOU, BUT SIMPLY TO  
SAY THANK YOU,  
FOR ALL I HAVE.**

*Have you thanked God today  
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- The freedoms we are able to enjoy
- Our educations and educators
- Doctors and medicines
- The avenue of prayer
- Those serving as elders/deacons
- Your Turn:

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# Monthly Challenges

**DIRECTIONS:** *Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.*

## 1) MEMORIZING BIBLE FACTS

**2 Cor. 4:6** "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

It is important for Christians to have knowledge of God's Word. This month, our challenge will be to memorize some facts from the Scriptures so we can recall them at a moment's notice. Here are some things we should commit to memory:

- a) **The books that make up the Old Testament-** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- b) **The books that make up the New Testament-** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation
- c) **The twelve sons of Israel-** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin
- d) **The apostles of Jesus-** Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, Bartholomew, James, Simon, Thaddaeus, Judas, Matthias, Paul
- e) **The plan of salvation-** Believe, Heb. 11:6; Repent, 2 Pet. 3:9; Confess, Rom. 10:9; Immersion, Acts 22:16; Remain faithful, Rev. 2:10

## 2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

**Mark 12:41-44**

**41** "And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. **42** And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. **43** And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. **44** For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."