

It's Just Not Mine ... Really!

Stewardship vs. Ownership

Sunday, January 08, 2012



INTRODUCTION

Where do we get the things we have? They come from God. God has given us all things: possessions, homes, family, faith, talents, and happiness. We have everything that we have because God gave it to us. We did not acquire anything independently of Him. Nothing originated with us. *Electronic Giving Solutions*

I. Stewardship and Ownership

A. Spiritual Blessings Come from God

1. Faith and Grace (Rom. 12:3; 2 Cor. 9:14-15; Eph. 2:8)
2. Gifts and Talents (1 Kings 4:29; Dan. 1:17; 1 Cor. 7:7; 2 Pet. 3:15; Prov. 2:6)

B. Material Blessings Come from God

1. Possessions (Deut. 8:18; Ecc. 5:19)
2. Homes (Deut. 8:12, 17-18)

QUOTE: When a man becomes a Christian, he becomes industrious, trustworthy, and prosperous. Now, if that man, when he gets all he can and saves all he can, does not give all he can, I have more hope for Judas Iscariot than for that man! John Wesley

C. Life's Blessings Come from God

1. Family (Gen. 30:2; 48:9; Ps. 127:3)

2. **Success** and Happiness (2 Chron. 26:5; Ecc. 3:13; Ps. 1:3; Josh. 1:8)

- So since God has given us the gifts of time, health, thoughts, life...
- And since we do not have any idea how **long** these will **last**.
- We must make the most of them for God's **glory!**

QUOTE: "One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that **nothing** we have **belongs** to us." Gordon MacDonald

II. Stewardship and **Obligation**

A. Our Responsibility (Ps. 24:1-2; Job 1:21; Pr. 3:9; Titus 1:7-8)

- Stewardship is the act of managing another's property, finances, or other affairs.
- While we are on **earth**, God has given us the **joy** of using His goods.
- But we must use them in a way that is consistent with the desires of the **owner**.
- We must find out what God's **purposes** are and put His goods toward His work!

B. Our **Response** (Rom. 12:4-8; Luke 12:15-21, 42-44)

- We **MUST** use our resources for God's glory and for the promotion of HIS **kingdom!**

CONCLUSION

QUOTE: It's not how much of **my** money will I give to God, but how much of **God's** money will I **keep** for myself. Oswald Smith