

Stewardship

JESUS SAID: "MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE." HE WAS CERTAINLY RIGHT! IT IS NOT WHAT WE HAVE THAT MAKES US HAPPY. It is how we use what we have that makes the difference. People are searching for happiness, peace and contentment. They can never find it outside of the Kingdom of God.

From the very beginning of time, people have sought to find a real meaning to life. They have turned to every kind of philosophy ... every way of life ... and have come up short. All of these philosophies have failed to produce lasting happiness. Is there any real happiness in life? Yes, there is. It is to be found in Christ. To search for the truth, the way, the life outside of Christ is to search in vain.

God is the Creator. We have been formed in God's image and in God's likeness. We are made for fellowship with God. As we honor God with our daily living, we find ourselves in complete agreement with our Creator. Our goal is to find eternal peace with God. In order to enjoy that peace, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of your Savior. This means that you must study God's word and communicate with God in prayer.

God desires that, first of all, you give yourself. When you do this, you will find a certain satisfaction. Then God wants your time, talent, and resources to be focused for good.

This means total commitment of what you have to God. That's a hard step to take, but it will bring complete happiness and satisfaction in serving God. Many never are able to make this kind of total commitment to God. Others struggle with it all of their lives and miss the real blessings of God.

God gives us the right to choose the way that we will live our lives and wants us to completely commit

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PROPER VALUES

Jesus does not condemn money in itself, but neither does he uphold material wealth as an ultimate goal in itself.

He wants us to learn to value things rightly, understanding that our lives are transitory and short, and that our goal should not be wealth and security here and now, but the eclipsing wealth of eternal life with him.



USE YOUR TALENT

God has given each part of his creation a talent according to their ability. We are the ones who have decided that to be talented means that we excel in one of several high-paying careers.


God's idea of talents is based on their usefulness to others, not on the number of talents. Each of us will be held accountable for using the talent we have been given and whether we have used it in God's Kingdom.

JUST REWARDS

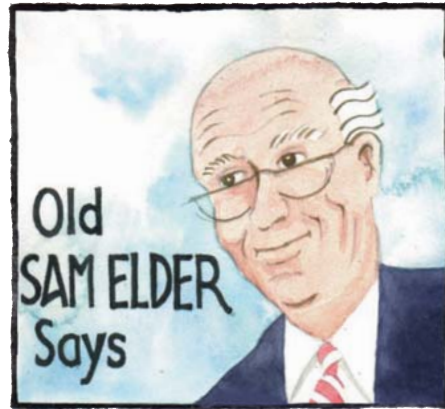
A good friend of mine just spent the weekend with a group of junior high students. I have enough trouble handling my own two teenagers, let alone a weekend in a hotel with a hundred kids! He actually enjoys it! He doesn't get paid for doing this.

Paul has touched so many young people with the love of Christ and has had such an impact on their decisions, their futures, and their home life. It is amazing to see those teens who are hungry for God and enjoy studying God's word, and telling others about what God has done in their lives. Why would a man give of his time so freely to do such challenging work? Paul laughs when I call it challenging. He sees it as only rewarding.

Paul has made me realize that when you have an eternal perspective on your daily activities, it helps you see much more clearly what is really important and what is not.

Who knows how many lives will be touched and changed through these kids that he is having such an impact on? The stewardship of time is one of our greatest privileges and yet one of our biggest responsibilities. Whose eternity can you impact today? 

R. Truesdale



STEWARDS OF ALL

Reverend Don Goodly would never say that the parishioners of OUR CHURCH are poor stewards of their pastor, because Don is a patient, long-suffering man. Yet, I can see that in so many ways we needlessly add to his labor and consume his limited hours.

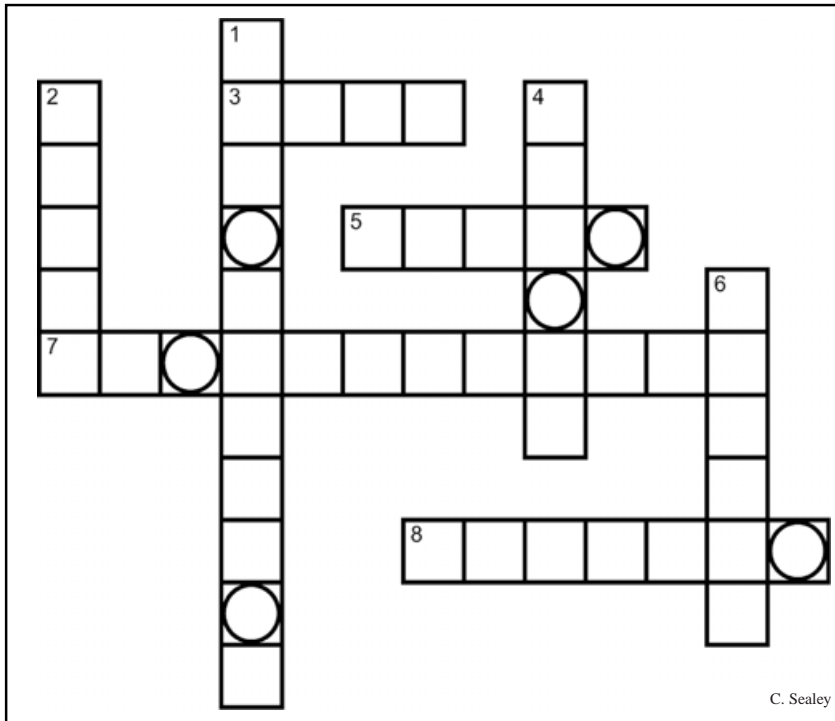
We look to him for spiritual leadership, for administration, for counseling, and for visits to everyone. Then, too, each of us insists upon his being our friend, which requires his knowing our situation, our dreams, and his caring deeply.

We repay him by ignoring work that needs to be done, thereby forcing him to find someone to do the task. We so grudgingly accept work assignments that he would rather do the job, and he often does. We are so divided and undecided on issues that he must decide the church's position, and then endure our griping. In a changing world situation, it's the pastor who must lead despite the resistance of those who deplore change. I can see that we are especially poor stewards of our pastor.

Much the same could be said for all the servants of OUR CHURCH, both paid and unpaid. Our demands are endless; rewards few. Stewardship is more than raising funds. It must include the prayerful selection, the recognition and rewarding of all those who will apply, record, safeguard, spend and invest these funds.

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STEWARDSHIP WORD SCRAMBLE



C. Sealey

Solve the crossword puzzle by first looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. Clues are taken from articles in this issue. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the INSPIRATION clue.

Across

- | Clue | Answer |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 3. Gift from God. | mtei |
| 5. Commitment to God. | tolta |
| 7. Our goal with God. | areatnpecee |
| 8. According to one's ability. | ttlesan |

Down


- | Clue | Answer |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. More than fundraising. | seriswahpdt |
| 2. To enjoy peace, grow in. | rceag |
| 4. Communication with God. | rarpye |
| 6. Not our ultimate goal. | alehwt |

INSPIRATION Clue: Time is a gift from God, to be used _____.

SIMPLE DEFINITION

Stewardship may be defined simply as how we use our bodies, minds, spirits, time, talent, and all resources including finances and other material gifts as servants of God. It is what we do with all that we have, to do whatever tasks God calls us to do. It is also to support God's church and other mission stations as places of worship, learning, service, and Christian fellowship.

The bottom line, according to St. Paul, is this: "It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (I Cor. 4:2) If

God can trust us to be reliant and fervent in the use of God's gifts to us, well, that is all that is asked of us. 

C. Ferrell

Word Scramble Answers
 Across
 3. Time
 5. Total
 7. Eternal peace
 8. Talents
 Down
 1. Stewardship
 2. Grace
 4. Prayer
 6. Wealth
 INSPIRATION Answer: WISELY

TIME OUT

Time is a gift from God, to be either used wisely, or wasted away. God allows us to choose how to use his gift. Do you use God's time for loving and caring deeds? It's so tempting to take time out, especially in the hazy, lazy days of summer. There is no purpose in taking time out from Christian study or worship to waste away the summer!

YOU CAN MAKE SOMEONE STEWARD-OF-THE-MONTH!

“Steward of the Month” is an exciting new way to recognize exemplary stewards. If you are aware of someone who has exemplified Christian stewardship, please tell us about it at www.stewardofthemonth.com. Once a month, one submission will be chosen to be published in *Stewardship*. In addition, if your story is chosen, \$100 will be given to the church or organization of your choice.



The stewardship of time is one our greatest privileges and yet one of our biggest responsibilities. Whose eternity can you impact today?

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JESUS SAID: “MAN SHALL...

ourselves to good works. God promises us blessings when we do that. Those who have tried it have verified that God is able to keep those promises to us.

Seek to be what God wants you to be today! ☩

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STEWARDS OF ALL

The same could be said for the people of OUR CHURCH. Stewardship of our church is not only the care of a building, rather it’s the care of people, including our un-churched brothers and sisters. ☩

