

Three Stewardship Priorities

Proverbs 3:9; 1 Peter 3:15

January is stewardship month at BBC. Stewardship is one of the most important areas. There are **three principles of stewardship**:

1. Stewardship recognizes God is the **Owner** of all things.
 - Psalms 24:1—*The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.* (cf. Dt. 10:14)
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20—*...ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*
 - Deuteronomy 8:18—*But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth...*
 - Romans 11:36—*For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*
2. Stewardship recognizes we are the **managers** of all God has entrusted to us. A steward does not render service to satisfy his own needs, but he works on the behalf of the owner of the goods.
 - How you manage what God has given you today will determine what God will give you in the future.
3. Stewardship recognizes there will be an **accounting** of how we managed all God entrusted to us (Luke 16:2; 1 Cor. 3:11-15). "*So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God*" (Rom. 14:12).

➡ Therefore, we need to make stewardship a priority in our lives.

PRIORITY: (1) Something that is more important than other things and that needs to be done or dealt with first. (2) Precedence, especially established by order of importance or urgency.

I. The first PERSON in stewardship is the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16-18).

➡ Stewardship gives Jesus Christ "first claim" to every part of our lives: **C-L-A-I-M**

C = Calendar. Give God the first day of every week and the first part

III. The first PRESENTATION of stewardship is giving yourself (2 Cor. 8:1-5; Rom. 12:1-2).

- When you gives yourself to the Lord, then it follows that everything you have also belongs to God.
- No one has begun to practice Biblical stewardship as long as he considers his life is his own to do with as he pleases.
- Stewardship gives oneself on the altar and then the gift!

SUMMATION: The bottom line is **stewardship is simply PUTTING GOD FIRST** in everything we have and everything we do. Stewardship is not just about giving God money. It is about giving God everything.

“Putting God First” is our stewardship theme for 2015.

Anything you put ahead of God is an idol.