

STEWARDSHIP: THE REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE OF LIFE

TEXT: Luke 16:1-9; 1 Cor. 4:2

INTRODUCTION: If our lives are to be lived wisely and worthily, they must be undergirded by wise and worthy **principles**. The highest and best principle of life is the principle of **stewardship**.

Who is a “steward”? A steward is not the owner, proprietor, CEO, or president. God is the owner of all that we have (Hag. 2:8; Deut. 8:18a). We are not owners, but stewards. A steward [Gk. “oikonomos”] is one who has been entrusted with the affairs of another (or others).

From beginning to end, the Bible magnifies the principle of stewardship. We are “*not our own*.” We are “*bought with a price*.” Therefore, everything we are and have and can be is a trusteeship, a sacred stewardship.

OUTLINE:

I. Our Stewardship **MUST** Be Accounted for!

(1 Cor. 4:2; Rom. 14:12)

A. Our “day of reckoning” is unavoidable.

B. Life itself is a stewardship, is a gift from God.

II. Every Area of Our Life Must be Regarded as a Stewardship.

A. Our **time** (Eph. 5:16)

B. Our **talents** (1 Cor. 4:7)

C. Our **moral influence**

1. As **parents**

2. As **citizens**

D. Our **material property**

1. It must be acquired righteously.

2. It must be held as a trusteeship.

III. Unfaithfulness Results in Forfeiture of Our Stewardship.

(Lk. 16:11; Lk. 9:24)

CONCLUSION: This then is the true message and meaning of life. It is from start to finish a **stewardship**. A life of stewardship begins by making a solemn **consecration** of ourselves unto God (Rom. 12:1,2).

