



From Where I Sit . . .

“STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN”

We begin a four-week study of a very important and needed subject, “Stewardship,” on February 19. We must always keep in mind that as Christians we are the stewards of God in every sense of the word. Stewardship is the exact relationship that God wishes to exist between Himself and His children. We are commissioned to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us – “*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God*” (1 Peter 4:10).

Every one of us has a different gift, talent, office, but we are each taught to exercise our role, or minister to one another, as good stewards. Peter equates this with proper stewardship of the manifold, many expressions, of the grace of God.

The word “steward” signifies “a manager or servant of a household.” So a steward is not an owner. Instead, he is a manager of what belongs to another and is held responsible to carefully account for his stewardship. The parable of the faithful and sensible steward in **Luke 12:41-48** illustrates the issues involved here. The steward of this passage was responsible to see that all the other servants were properly fed, but his performance was subject to review by his master with the possibilities of reward or loss based on his faithfulness.

Believers individually and the church as a whole exist to be good stewards of the truth of God in evangelism and discipleship through the exercise of the gifts each member of the body of Christ has from God. (1 Pet. 4:10). We exist for the mission of penetrating the world to make believers so that they become healthy ministering saints as well.

Though stewardship applies to every aspect of our responsibility toward God, “Stewardship of Our Material Possessions” is the theme for this particular class series. Jesus gave little thought to the subject of money for its own sake, yet he still placed a great importance on it in His teachings. In His parables and other teachings we find many instructions on the proper place of material possessions, and the use to be made of money. He had much to say about the futility of seeking after riches (**Luke 12:20-21**); of laying up treasures on earth (**Matt 6:19-20**); and of the rich man’s difficulty of getting into heaven (**Mark 10:23-25**). Furthermore he warns us to “Beware of covetousness” (**Luke 12:15**).

God has given us many blessings: We must remember the Lord’s words of **Luke 12:48**, “*For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.*” A Good Steward Will Honor the Lord With His Substance – “*Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase; So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine*” (**Proverbs 3:9-10**). Our classes will be designed to help us grow in the grace of giving and to receive the fullest joy and benefit that the Lord intended for Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (**Acts 20:35**).

. . . . Terry Broome