

The Good Steward

Read 1 Corinthians 4:11 ...

There is a truth about Christians ... each one is a steward.

This is the last lesson from V. P. Black's little study *Rust as a Witness*, and he rightly points out that Christians don't have a choice in this respect. The only choice that Christians have is whether one is a good steward or a bad steward. No matter how much of this world's goods have been given to each one, each one will be giving an account to the Lord on that Great Day.

There are bad stewards. Jesus gave his disciples a description of a bad steward in Luke 12:16-20. Blessed with an abundance, a rich man whose grounds were fruitful and brought forth a large crop, decided to keep that crop. Since his barns were not large enough they were torn down and new, larger barns were built. Sadly, that rich man – who had decided to “eat, drink, and be merry” – never got to appreciate the goods he had amassed since they passed to another upon his death. His goods were neither a blessing in this life or the next. It is a poor steward that takes the blessings given by God and uses those blessings only upon themselves.

And the good steward? Jesus speaks about that person, too. The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 speaks to three different points that define a good steward of his Lord's blessings. First, the parable teaches us that the amount one makes is less important than the effort put forth. In both Romans 12:11 & 2 Thessalonians 3:10 being lazy, or being “slothful,” is condemned by the Apostle. Second, the parable teaches us that one should save so the abundance can be returned to the Lord. After feeding the masses, both times the Lord instructs the disciples to gather the remains (Matt. 14:20; 15:37). Wastefulness and selfishness are just opposite sides of the coin in the

hand of a poor steward. Finally, the parable teaches that a good steward gives all she can. The basic pattern for giving is “as he may prosper” (1 Cor. 16:2) and the overall reason is that one “may have something to give him who has need” (Eph. 4:28).

The good steward recognizes that his goods do not belong to him. It was by understanding this truth that the early Christians were able to share, so that none among them were in need (Acts 4:32-35). That God has title to the whole earth is noted more than once in the Scriptures for He is the creator, but the children of God also belong to Him (Isa. 43:1; 1 Cor. 6:20). We owe our life, both physically and spiritually, to God.

The good steward will honor God by making proper returns. When anyone assumes a financial obligation, it is expected to return what is owed fully and promptly. Shall the Christian act any less honorably towards God? Giving as one should will be remembered as “fruit that abounds” to one's account and will rise as a “sweet-smelling sacrifice” before the throne of God (Phil. 4:16-18).

The good steward recognizes faithfulness in the small things is just as important as faithfulness in the large (Luke 16:10). The generous spirit that is present in times of little as well as times of much is a sign of the Christian acting in a godly manner (2 Cor. 8:12).

How wonderful it will be on that Great Day to hear those words, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

What is Jesus Doing Now?

We often talk about what Jesus did: the _____, the _____ exchanges, and his _____, _____, and _____.

** Jesus is still _____ the will of God to us _____.

We are in the “_____” – the message given by the Father remains in the words of the _____.

The Scriptures have been _____ thru time by the _____ of God.

** Jesus is at the Father’s side _____ for us _____.

It is because of Jesus we have _____ to God, we can _____ the throne of grace, and we come into the _____ of Holies by the _____ of Jesus.

If _____ is the accuser, then _____ is the defender in the _____ of heaven.

** Jesus stands ready to _____ in triumph _____.

John 14:3 – “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will _____ again and _____ you to Myself, “

Jesus is in heaven now having all _____, something he claimed for himself _____ His _____.

Jesus is waiting now for one word - _____!