

## THE FAITHFUL STEWARD

When the Lord returns, we he find faith. Good stewardship is a major theme of the teaching of Jesus. His parables resound with the idea that the Master had left the steward in charge. How will we tend to those matters, invest those resources we are charged with keeping.

Paul writes in I Cor 4:1-2. Let a man so account for us as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a person be found faithful.

The steward must be faithful in Living and in Giving. The steward has faith in God the creator. We and all the earth belong to Him. You are not your own, you are bought with a price. Man has faith in God and faith in his fellow creatures. Since God is my creator, my life must be lived in terms of His purpose for me. God's purpose may be summed up with the words = dominion, worship and love. God placed man to be in dominion over the creation and we must care for it properly. God wants us to serve Him and worship Him, and He has called us to Love. Biblical faith expresses itself in not just loving and worshipping God, but loving our neighbor as our self.

The steward is faithful in giving. Again God has entrusted us with time, talents, resources and money and we must use them properly. After giving of himself in faith the good steward understands that giving of his material goods is a part of worship. Paul talks extensively in II Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9 about seeing the relationship of our attitude of giving with our living for God, and bringing praise to Him.

The faithful steward gives proportionately to what he has earned. He gives generously and systematically on a regular basis, careful to put God's work first in his budget. He is accountable to the Lord, and should also demand accountability of those to whom he gives for the work of the kingdom.

II Cor. 5:10.. For we must all appear before the judgment of Christ, and each receive what is due him for the things done here, while in the body, whether good or bad. If we can be trusted with a little, God says we can be made ruler over much and we will hear those words, "Well Done, Good Faithful Servant."