

Sunday School Lesson for the month of October 2011 – (Stewardship)

## **It Is Required of Stewards**

*“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ,  
and stewards of the mysteries of God.”*

*“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found  
faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)*

*(Sunday, October 2, 2011)*

Fraternal organizations can make demands on us and we respond - but not the church?

God has the right to require since what we have and are belong to Him.

The term “Steward” and the term “Servant” are equated in this scripture. Each one implies the other. If one is a steward of the mysteries of God, he is also a servant of Christ. If one is a servant of Christ, he is thereby a steward of the mysteries of God that have been revealed to us in Christ. **A steward is a manager or an administrator of an estate or of something that is highly worthwhile.**

Consider us Christians as stewards. Constantly dealing with that which belongs to another. The responsibility for the proper handling of the trust is greater than if it were our own. Life’s gifts are many and they have been given to man in trust. The key to good stewardship is the consciousness of the presence of the owner. The good steward will always sense the presence of his master and carry out his stewardship as though he were present. In God’s economy, our stewardship is exercised over the gifts of life. Everything life is and has is a gift. Paul says, *“moreover” it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful!*”

*(Sunday, October 9, 2011)*

**First of all, who does the requiring?**

The practice of stewardship is not an accidental process that has come into focus through some faltering, failing man-made principles on church support. It is the thrust of the eternal. This is God's plan to promote His Kingdom. In definition, Christian stewardship is a way of life in which man recognizes God as Creator/Owner of all things and himself as a trustee of that which belongs to God, to be used for God's Glory and Honor. Since stewardship is of God, and for the glory of God, it is quite evident that stewardship is required by God. The text is really saying, "moreover God requires in stewards that there be faithfulness."

God chooses to remain in control of the world. He doesn't relinquish control. Who requires us? Not the Pastor! Not the church! The LORD requires us. God Himself!! It is a requirement! It is a demand! It is an imperative! It is a necessity!

*(Sunday, October 16, 2011)*

**Secondly, What Is Required?**

The text says, “faithfulness.” Since God chooses to entrust His world and all that dwells therein to the care of another, we can be sure that He also expects faithfulness on the part of the trustee. Faithfulness and accountability live in the same camp. God does care about how we handle that which belongs to Him whether it be time, talents, tithes, or life. He holds us accountable for our faithfulness or lack of faithfulness in Christian stewardship. Individually we must give account to God, in this life and in the life to come. Don’t you ever think that our failures at stewardship are excusable, or that the sin of robbing God of time or tithes is not serious. Heaven holds us accountable. God requires faithfulness and accountability in Christian stewardship. What is required? – Faithfulness, regardless of circumstances, opposition, and situation.

**(Sunday October 23 & 30, 2011)**

**Thirdly, Who Is Required?**

Paul says, “moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” Stewards are required! Man is required!

All men are stewards, whether they know it or not. We are either good or poor stewards, but stewards nonetheless. Who is required to be faithful?

- You, whether you know it or not!
- You, whether rich or poor!
- You, whether educated or illiterate!
- You, whether young or old!
- You, whether clergy or layman!
- You, whether individually or collectively!

Since we are the ones required to be faithful, let me offer some essentials for meeting the requirements.

1. There must be availability. If we are not available to God; If we are not willing to give ourselves to God and trust Him; Then it is very unlikely that we will give our money to Him.
2. Then there is commitment. Faithful stewardship without surrender of self – Ain’t. Faithful Christian stewardship must be placed in the context of our total commitment to Christ. The church is full of professing Christians who are full of self. Selfishness is in the way of our commitment. Selfishness is the main hindrance to commitment in Christian stewardship. Self demands the popularity. Self forsakes the people. Self prevents faithfulness in stewardship.

**We Must Commit Ourselves!!!**