

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

October 2025

“I’m tired of being asked for money,” complained a woman whose name had gotten on the mailing lists of a number of charitable causes. Another person who also receives many appeals, said in frustration, “I just can’t give to everything.”

Requests come for many of us for what seems to be good and worthy causes. One may be an emotional appeal to help feed needy children, another an urgent plea to help support justice, or to help the poverty stricken, or the disabled or the disenfranchised. We may react with feelings of guilt, thinking, “I should do something for this cause.” Some people salve their consciences by sending a dollar to almost everything and anything that comes along. Another person, exasperated, throws it all in the circular file. How should a person decide whether or not he will support a particular appeal?

No one should feel guilty for not supporting every cause that comes their way. For one thing, there have been enough instances of poorly organized appeals, that we should be wary of where we are giving our money. Some appeals are heavy on administrative expenses, which means that only a small percentage of our donated check goes where it is intended. We ought to be sure that the appeal is legitimate and is using its contributions for the purpose for which it was founded. It is not good stewardship to throw away what God has entrusted to us.

Secondly, we simply cannot give to everything, just as we cannot say “yes” to every request for our time and abili-

ties. We have to use some discretion. Some of us have favorite causes with which we may have had personal experience or have special interest.

Our own church ought to be high on the priority list! Many church-associated charities, service agencies and hospitals



are known to us for the work they do and the people they serve. They depend on the support of church members and they deserve our generous consideration.

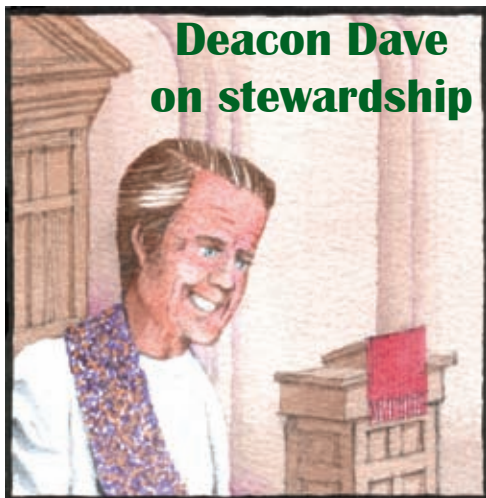
Time is a gift that is given to us. We're to use it according to God's own plan. To each God gives a measured amount, to each a directive to make it count. Spend this gift wisely. Develop life's plan to the glory of God and the service of others.



(Continued on page 4)

What are the benefits of being faithful stewards of the money that God has entrusted to us? "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this they will lay up treasures for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming of age, so that they may take hold of life that is truly life." (1 Timothy 6:18-19) Only the money saved in God's bank will last forever.

Deacon Dave on stewardship



My computer does not recognize the word "stewardship" in the Christian sense. In reality, except in the church, the words "steward" and "stewardship" are becoming archaic. But fortunately, I have a dictionary old enough to have a definition.

Steward: one who is entrusted with the management of things not his or her own. And stewardship is the act of being a steward. Simply put, Christian stewardship is not merely the giving of money to the "owner of everything." It is the caring for all the things with which we are entrusted.

How do we measure-up as caretakers? Well, how do we care for ourselves? Do we smirk when we eat something we've been told not to eat?

Do we brag a little about how much we paid for some nonessential item?

When we do such things, do we then act like self-satisfied children who have gotten away with something?

Is that how we want to measure our stewardship of God's things. Never quit doing what's best for ourselves or for the possessions entrusted to us?

Being mature in our faith means giving up our self-imposed blindness and deafness so we can look at, hear about and explore new opportunities of stewardship.

Let us develop a sense of stewardship that will make us want to use today and every day count for God. 

Giving of Ourselves

Money can sometimes be our easiest giving. Everybody knows they should give money, even those who never give. Giving of ourselves is our most difficult giving. Giving of ourselves means giving the best of our love, our devotion, our talents, our time and our mind.

Attendance at worship and other church activities is a steward's duty. Look up the word "attendance" in a dictionary. Of course, "being present" is the basic meaning, but note the further meanings: "to be present for a purpose" or "serve," or "to be attentive to." So we need to be more than warm bodies taking up space. We need to keep alert to listen and learn. We need to let down the barriers and draw close to our fellow parishioners; fellowship, as some call it. We need to serve, each according to their talents and abilities. Strangely, when we search persistently and prayerfully, we can find that one task for which we were especially equipped. As I stated earlier, money can be our easiest giving. 



Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor:

The word is “tithe” is defined as 10% of your income given to support your church and other charities.

To some, tithe is totally unfamiliar; to others, an antiquated Old Testament law, no longer valid. Some consider it impossible to achieve, others practice it as a regular spiritual discipline.

Some denominations make it a strict condition for membership. Others promise to support their church with prayers, presence, gifts and service. Each person decides his or her level of financial support.

My personal commitment is based on the belief that “all I am and all I have is a gift from God.”

I have tithed all of my adult life, a lesson learned from watching my father put 10% of his earnings into what we knew as the “Tithe Box.” That box was never empty.

I have been blessed over the years to be able to give more than 10% and to support causes beyond my local church. I have discovered joy in giving and proven to myself that it is impossible to out-give God.

Malachi 3:10 is still a valid promise; “Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse ... Then I will open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessing after blessing.”

Thomas

The Good Steward

There was once a mink farmer who had some visitors visit his farm. One of the curious visitors asked, “How many pelts can you get from the same mink?” The farmer replied, “Only one. After that, the mink gets nervous.”

There are some things you can only do once. Once you’ve spent a minute, it’s gone forever.

How long is a minute? Sometimes you find yourself saying, “Time just flew by.” On another occasion you may find yourself saying, “I thought you’d never come.”

There are some things you can only do once. Once you spend a minute, it’s gone forever.

How much time must pass in order that a million seconds may elapse?

A million seconds is just under two years.

A trillion seconds ago, stone-age man lived in a cave and mastodons roamed Europe and North America.

How do you use your minutes?

Have you examined the ways in which you use your time? Are you spending too much time on yourself? Or, wasting time on things that aren’t really important?

Ask yourself: *Do you ever find time for the work of God?* ☯

When we think of gifts, we usually think of material things. Yet, the greatest gift we can give is the gift of self ... time, love, prayer, talents. Any day is a good day to offer the gift of self to build up the Kingdom of God in your family, community and church.





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Continued from page 1...

I’m tired of being asked...

Giving is a sign of love

Giving without begrudging it is one of the characteristics of a Christian. True giving is done without the anticipation of a reward or of getting paid back. When done in this spirit, giving is an interesting challenge. Giving is also a sign of love and concern. By giving to others, we are giving to God. How much, and to what are questions each person has to answer.

Although some people are exasperated when it comes to exercising the op-

tion of giving, there is something about it worth pondering. We actually have something to share, all of us! We can give some way and still have enough. There may come a time in life when we cannot give anymore. But while we can respond to real needs, there is a blessing. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” God can use our gifts for blessings to others. Your gift is a part of you going to help a cause. Make your gift count! 



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