Stewardship of Money sermon for 2-05-17

## **3 Tenets of Stewardship**

1. **All we have at our disposal and all our blessings are assets of God on loan to us.**
2. **He expects us to care for these blessings and make profit for Him.**
3. **It’s not all about you and your stuff; it’s about God and His stuff!**

## **Key Stewardship Principles**

1. **If you faithfully steward the little things you have now, you will be given more in the future.**
2. **How you are now with the little you must steward would only broaden in scope if you had a lot.**

We have spoken these past Sundays on Stewarding

* Our time
* Our health
* Our Influence
* Our local church

This week we are going to learn about stewarding God’s money.

## **Stewardship of Money**

Today we will discuss two things that will inevitably cause us to steward our money poorly—carelessness and greed—and how to get those out of our lives.

**Enemy to stewarding money well: Carelessness**

Carelessness is a tough enemy to nail down in our lives because of its ubiquity—it’s everywhere. Carelessness doesn’t just show up in our bookkeeping or spending decisions, it shows up in our studies, career, housework, planning, relationships, education, etc. Somehow carelessness never stays in one compartment of our lives; like permanent marker on a notepad, it seeps from one page to the next.

However, let’s narrow our discussion down to carelessness’s affect on the stewardship of our money.

Carelessness corrupts our time

* budgeting hours
* planning hours
* preparation hours

Carelessness corrupts our results

* Missed deadlines
* Low quality
	+ Run your life according to excuses instead of standards

**Learn how to be diligent and you will defeat carelessness.**

# Solomon’s Meaning of Diligence

Please read the book *The Richest Man Who Ever Lived* by Steven Scott

“Scott flunked out of every job he took for six years after college. Then his best friend challenged him to study a chapter of Proverbs a day, promising that doing so would give him greater success and happiness than he had ever known. The promise came true, making Scott a millionaire many times over.”

Steven Scott points out that Solomon’s full definition of diligence can be found in Proverbs 20:11

# **Proverbs 20:11** (NKJV)

**11**Even a child is known by his deeds,
Whether what he does *is* pure and right.

True Biblical diligence is defined by these two words “pure” and “right”.

* “Pure” means investing one’s time in that which “brings a pure return on the time and effort invested.”
* “Right” means doing your work “*right*—expeditiously, efficiently, and effectively.”

“Diligence is a learnable skill that combines: creative persistence, a smart-working effort rightly planned and rightly performed in a timely, efficient, and effective manner to attain a result that is pure and of the highest quality of excellence.”—Steven Scott

Diligence is not just working hard; it’s working smart, efficiently, and excellently.

**If you learn to work diligently on your job, you will earn money; and if you work diligently on managing your money, you will build wealth.**

**Enemy to stewarding money well: Greed**

“Greed is a deep longing for something that creates a willingness to do whatever it takes to acquire it. In other words, greed is not defined by what you want, but rather by how badly you want it.”—Steven Scott

Greed will…

1. Steal your life

# **Proverbs 1:19**

**19**So *are* the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain;
It takes away the life of its owners.

1. Destroy you financially

# **Proverbs 28:22**

**22**A man with an evil eye hastens after riches,
And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

1. Affect your loved ones

# **Proverbs 15:27**

**27**He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house,
But he who hates bribes will live.

1. Bankrupt you spiritually

# **Proverbs 13:7**

**7**There is one who makes himself rich, yet *has* nothing;
*And* one who makes himself poor, yet *has* great riches.

1. Steal your happiness or reason for living
2. Steal your integrity

# **Proverbs 28:20**

**20**A faithful man will abound with blessings,
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

1. Give you a false sense of security

# **Proverbs 11:28**

**28**He who trusts in his riches will fall,
But the righteous will flourish like foliage.

**Learn how to build wealth Biblically and you will defeat greed.**

# Building Wealth Biblically

1. **Don’t try to get rich.**

# **Proverbs 23:4-5**

**4**Do not overwork to be rich;
Because of your own understanding, cease!
**5**Will you set your eyes on that which is not?
For *riches* certainly make themselves wings;
They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.

1. **Stop chasing money.**

# **1 Timothy 6:10**

**10**For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1. **Focus on achievement rather than money.**
2. **Be generous.**

# **Proverbs 11:25**

**25**The generous soul will be made rich,
And he who waters will also be watered himself.

1. **Give at least ten percent of your gross income to the local church.**

# **Malachi 3:10**

**10**Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,”
Says the Lord of hosts,
“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you *such* blessing
That *there will* not *be room* enough *to receive it.*