

Commitment had been made unto Paul from God, similar to the meaning from in Ephesians 3: 1 & 2 From this cause I Paul the prisoner of Jesus Christ for the Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward. When is translated dispensation and commital placed in the hand of Paul.

In the story of the pounds every servant recieved the same amount, variously estamated at about \$20 to \$40 dollard and each steward or servant was to go out into the streets and places of business and trade,

Now if we see the spiritual truth of this, you will see that every servant of Christ receives equally. That which may be small in the eyes of the world it is the gospel of Christ. The rich the poor the blind, the white, the black, and let a man so account of us as ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Peter wrote that good stewards are the manifold grace of God. Every Christian is given the gospel as a trust, how could glorious gospel of the Son of God be represented by such a tiny sum, compared to the Roman empire and the jewish of the kingdom, it did seem very little.

There is a great purpose, God had a purpose in committing this to us in our stewardship, what ever we possess of ability

SERMON TITLE: CASH AND CREDIT -- Luke 19:13

A common excuse used and is though to be sincere by many people, I cannot give anything to the church much less a tithe because I have no money and am even (in debt). Most of the average Americans, today have spent not only their cash but most of their credit on themselves.

(Dr. Lienbach) told the story of a complainer in his church who went to one of the elders and whined "Our church is costing to much, they are always asking for money, I am sick and tired of these repeated request" the elder answered back, I want to tell you a story out of my own life, some years ago a little boy was born in my home and from the time he was born he cost me money I had to by food, clothes, medicine, and after awhile toys, and a puppy dog then when he started to school he cost me more, then when he went away from home to preparatory school my expenses increased, when he went off to college they were still greater, and when he was in college he started going with a girl and it cost us still more. In his senior year of college my boy suddenly took sick and died, and he hasen't cost me one red cent since that time not one red cent.

(Growing Churches) saving souls at home and abroad establish- ing mission's, planning on a home program at the home base, providing all of the needs of a congregation and of those who

serve the congregation costs a great deal of money, but now if you have a dead church it will cost you were little, infact it will not cost you anything, you let the church die and it will not cost you one red cent.

^{Jesus} He just wanted to correct a misunderstanding of his mission and he told the story of the noble man about to go on a long journey to receive a kingdom, he called together his ten servants he gave a sum of money with instruction to see what each could do by trading, a month later with his mission completed he returned and called his servants for an accounting, one had gained one hundred percent another one thousand percent, another five hundred percent, a third had not traded with the money but had returned it intact. The new king placed the successful servants in places of authority but he took the trust money from the servant who neglected and had been a rebellious citizen and he was executed.

What did Jesus mean by this story? The kingdom was not to be set up immediately, instead he would be rejected by the masses of people he would go away for a long time just leaving a tiny deposit with it his disciples were to go into business and make a profit and someday he will come back as king then the servant will give an accounting of their stewardship, and be delt with accordingly

He told them to occupy until I come, he is coming back again. Now this is an doctrine of stewardship of the servants of god and is a great truth relative to our christian faith.

The word Stewardship is translated by many different words in the English New Testament and it is not too difficult to put into the English language, it means the law of the house or the management of the house. The steward had management of the house, a noble man a king a rich man always employed faithful stewards and these stewards were responsible for the management and the stewardship of the property and the house.

Now God took this idea that the management of the house and applied it to us. We to whom God have given the material things of this life are to be faithful to God in all these things.

We see two or three instances of the use of this word in the New Testament 1 Cor. 4:1&2 "Let a Man so Account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful, then we see again in 1 Cor. 9:16&17, For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward. He felt here a commitment, a stewardship a

please God never let it be done by taxation. It has done for the churches of America what the reformation did for the Europe in the 16th century.

God speaks and the church is the means by which Gods people, implement Gods purposes in the earth, By what right does a pastor stand behind a pulpit and (ask the time) and the energy and the talents, and the money and the lives of people, he does it because God has spoken, and committed unto us a (stewardship from heaven), this is for our discipline.

There was a sign in front of a church which read (Ringo) every Friday night, 8:15, big cash prizes, \$300. jack-pot. Here is a game of chance sponsored by a church in the name of Christ, for the purpose of getting money, from people by appeal to the motive of a personal game we cannot think of a better way or a worse place to teach gambling,

In a certain (town in Ill.) the church sponsored an auction. At which professional men did their part by offering their services. A young fellow put some money down on the auction-block and drew a (tonsilotomy), which a local doctor had offered. The pastor of a church came out with (6 haircuts), The associated press reported, but it is any wonder that he hopes he does not have to collect the prize. Making reference to the doctors services. In (Los Angeles) I am told there are three streets named faith, hope, and charity, in the course of time I am told ^{BECAUSE} beca-

or talent or time, we owe it to God, it comes from the gracious hands of God, and there is indeed a purpose in it.

I. For Our Development -- The noblemen gave the money to the servant and the stewards for the purpose of their personal development, he (did not need) the money he did not need the stewards. The world is mine the Silver and the Gold and the cattle on the thousand hill, not that God needs us, not that he would fail without us, but God Commits the stewardship to us, (for our discipline), for our growth and for our own development. Of course all who have anything are handling Gods wealth there is (no land but Gods land) no (sunshine) but gods sunshine, no air but gods (air) no time but Gods time, but no (Gold) but Gods gold. Stewardship becomes a partnership with God.

So as we come to the (first step) in the acceptance of his authority over all of life, those who reject him that the course that leads to death, they cannot practice stewardship until they repent and confess, and are converted, stewardship is the exclusive privilege of a Christian. He called in ten servants and he delivered them ten pounds, they were all the servants he had and there was a pound for everyone of them, every person who receives the gospel recives it as a trust to do business with it, (every layman), every christian Woman, every boy, every

girl, has the gospel to do business with. Each of us has the pound to do business with, and each of us must account for the profit, he has made on his pound God is requiring this that we might grow as children and not be as infants.

In the book of Joshua we read the story, of the words of the promise of the intrace into Canaan, and God said to Joshua each place wheather thy foot shall rest I have given it unto thee for a possession, notice what God said I have given it unto thee, but every inch of ground was contested and Joshua had to take it by force and gonguest, God said I will give it to thee, now God could have by the sweep of his hand brushed all the enemies aside, and given it to the people, for their developement, but God knew for their disipline and their developement that they need to practice this stewardship and claim this problem. He had them to take it, to win it, to fight for it, to seise it.

Your remember Jesus said the fowls of the air, they sow not neither do they reap, ~~XXX~~ not do they gather in the barns, yet your heavenly father feeds them, now he feeds them when they get up at four or five o'clock in the morning and stay with it all day, God watches them God takes care of them, yet they would starve to death if they did not get up at sunrise, and seek for food until sunset. I read about a flock of sea gulls down south, where the srimp boats docks, the fishermen

feed them srimp that they were not able to market and to use, time went on and later the srimp boats moved to another part of the gulf, and they didn't come into that port any longer, and the no account sea gulls sat on the post until they starved to death. They were accuston, they had lost the will and the energy to go out and seek food for them-selves that is the way with people, they want things done for themselves when they will not do it, and they become lazy, and good for nothing, and they lost their strength, now the lord places an assignment in our hands he gives us something to do, and in our Sunday School class in our Training Union, in some place God gives us something to do. Now it takes work if it going to be developed.

In Europe as you know a great many of the church are supported by taxes from the Government, and one of the Eruopean preachers visited America and he said he had noticed in the developement of the church of our Lord in America, that their is a great movement of stewardship among the Christian people of America. In Europe he said their is no sense of obligation to God they state pays the preacher, it keeps up the church in tax money, runs the church organization, but he said I have noticed in the new world that stewardship movement has done a great deal for the churches of America. They have to stand on their own feet their own ministers, and contribute to the sup-
port of their work. It is not done by taxation, and he said

Do we really understand that every thing really belongs to god, this church, this supper that we have before us, belongs to god, this day in which we worship belongs to God, so all things be small or great belong to him. Even the dicator you know will say he is the boss and you have no right to have any power over me me as he talks to God. The miser says you have no right to tell me what to do with my money, I will whored this he states, that is not what God says about stewards, he is the master we are the stewards in a sense that we are parenter's in his house whole, as God treats us as son's. We know that the first creditor that we have is that of our stewardship with God. Mr. A. A. Hyde a millionarie, mentholatum, manufacturing fame, said that he began tithing when he was a 100,000 in debt, he had worn like many other covetous people, that he was in debt that he was ambitious to make money, to enjoy luxury and people warned him that it was dishonest to give God a 10th of his income while he was indebt, they were telling him that unless a Christian obeys the scripture, "Owe no man anything", Romans 13:8, Who among us that could not always keep himself in debt, their by not have to pay God anything.

Mr. Hyde agreed with his unscriptual counciler's, until one day it dawn upon him that the earth is the Lords, and the

of many protest, that charity was changed to grant because no one wanted to be refered to as living over there on Charity. Faith was changed to Flower, I suppose that no one wanted to be refered to as living over there on Faith. Hope did not seem to be objectional, many and many a Christian lets his church live over there on charity or on Faith without any sacrificial work, or giving, or stewardship. The

The nobleman gave them small sums of money, his purpose was not to make money, what would he need to take procession of his kingdom, whuld not his greated need be for compentent trust worthy men to help him rule as adminstrator over small territory, those with ability, loyal to his sovereign power, honest in their dealings, diligent in their duties, and therefor he was interested not in just an experiment but in the developement of men.

To often we have though of stewardship as a means of providing money for kingdom work, we have preached for missions sake for schools, for hospitals, for childrens homes, really the bible has little to say about raiseing money but it has a great deal to say about stewardship. God ownership and our trusteeship, are on every page of the book, the requirement of service is repeated over and over again. The story of the farmer who had 6 boys, and was rebuked by his neighbor for

keeping his boys so busy on the farm. John he said you don't have to work those boys so hard to raise the crop. I not worried about raising the crop was the answer, I'm raising boy's. God is not really concerned with our financial reports as such, and many times we get disturbed and distressed in our church about the financial reports. God is interested and engaged in developing Men and Women, who can be trusted with the concern of his eternal kingdom.

When the church is healthy spiritually the fountain of generosity open, that was no financial drive at the first church of Jerusalem. People brought every thing they had and when men are faithful in their stewardship they have a tendency to grow spiritually.

II. That Men Might Learn All Things Belong To God.

This is the second truth that I believe that all noblemen wanted these men to understand every thing belonged to his sovereign and it is true in religion all things are Gods and all are to be used for God, sometimes we make a false distinction between ^{secular} and spiritual. All things are in his hands, all things belong to him, and this is ^{opposed} ~~suppose~~ to a philosophy of many ages ago they made a difference between spiritual

things and earthly things. Back in the middle ages there was a vast distinction between the secular and the spiritual, a man was spiritual he felt that he must go off behind a high wall or a desert place and live like a hermit or in a monastery. All this is contrary to the great revelation of the truth of the holy scripture, for the Bible says the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, all of it is God's, All of it is under God.

In the 8th chapter of Romans Paul refused to separate redemption from creation he said all creation shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God there is to be a new earth and new life, and a new creation.

Every thing we possess belongs to God these body's of ours, bought with a price. We are the temples of the Holy Spirit. What we call ours is not really ours, but God's. Do you have a little piece of ground, that is God's, do you have a little home somewhere, that is God's, do you have a little interest in a business, that is God's, do you have any kind of bonds or stocks, or holding anywhere, they belong to God. Every thing is sacred unto God. Even in the new Jerusalem the pots and pans will have the words Holyness unto the Lord.

and he condemn the others as they were good for nothing.

What did Jesus mean in all this? - well the dishonest steward was taking the material things of life and putting them on a low level. God says that it is strange that my people do not have that much sense to take material things of life and use them for their future. For the almighty does not say that we can take the possession of this world and use them for God. It is a wonderful thing God says that we can that the material things of life and use them inward way to be rich toward God - it is a marvelous thing that a man can take money or he can take his abilities and use them for the glory of God - that is a wonderful thing - but that is the way God has arranged it. He has placed it in our hands - when we allow them to bring us ruin - then God says we are foolish - but when we take our possession and use them for God - and our stewardship of life and use it for God - he says you are laying up treasure's in heaven - your smart and your rich toward God.

So the steward in the parable a man placed this pound in his hand it was not his forever - it was to go back to his master - their would be a day of reckoning - there would be a time when he would be called in - to give and account - your not going to take anything with you - your going to leave it down here on earth - you may be as rich as Rockfellow but your going to leave every particle of it down here on earth

fullness there of, and the world and they that dwell within, which made God his first creditor, and he began paying God first, and eventually all other creditor were paid in full.

If a man does not consider God as his first creditor, owes you money, then he is a poor risk, in the light of the word of God. If you are in debt and you do not consider God as your first creditor, you are a poor risk for other creditors. Like the ^{story} of John D. Rockfellow, senior, who said yes I tithe, and I would like to tell you how it came about, I had to begin work as a small boy and support my Mother, my wages amounted to a dollar and a half a week, the first week I took this dollar and a half to my mother, she held the money on her lap, and explained to me that she would be happy if I would give a tenth to the Lord. I did and from that week until this day, I have tithed every dollar God has entrusted me with, and I want to say to you young men if I had not tithed the first dollar I made, I would not have tithed the first Million dollars I made.

Of course all work to be honest - none of the servants tried to steal the masters pound, and all came to the accounting time. The difference between the good servant and the bad servant is not that one stole and the other did not, rather it was on a basis of work and stewardship, the cardinal sin of it was that the basis of work and stewardship - concerning the christians in the matter of stewardship concerning the gospel is neglect its out is neglect, is putting it away in a napkin and being lazy

We are so much like (Bill) who lost his job, an acquaintance asked the reason, and he told him - Oh, it was the foreman's fault. How was that. Well, you know what the foreman does - He just stands around and watches other people work. This one got jealous because folks thought I was the foreman.

We see the uselessness here is the sin. The (fig tree) you remember was destroyed because it had done nothing. The (priest and the Levite) were condemned because they walked by on the other side. A good steward must be diligent - and a man who can work and not be a good steward of his money - is not carrying out the requirements of stewardship.

III. Stewards ~~and their~~ substance for the glory of God.

Now it is easy for a man to fall into (covetiness) - very often it will lead a man to ruin - for the love of money is the root of all evil. The (rich young ruler) had the world in his heart - and much of it in his hands, but he went away sorryful because his possession were too much to give up for God.

We remember the (banquet) that our Lord held and extended invitation - and some would not come because they had land, and others because they had oxen - they were like the (farmer) who had his barns all full with grain and was laying up treasure for himself - but he died in poverty - he was rich toward

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himself but he wasn't rich toward God. Very much like dievies who died and begged for a cool drop of water - to be placed on his tongue.

The (foolish man) build his house on the sand - the rich farmer build his with full barns - the (five foolish virgins) let their oil dry up in their lamps. Be he condemned them for their foolishness he said they were foolish, Jesus sought to impress his hearers with the use of the (material things) of life - to insure our future life. Instead of using them for God they were using them for their own souls. Jesus said that a man who does this is plain stupid - he is foolish.

We remember that (Jesus) told his disciple about a certain rich man who had a steward who wasted his goods and he called him in to give an account of his stewardship - and he said what shall I do my Lord taketh away my stewardship I cannot dig, I can't beg I am ashamed I am resolved noing not what to do - so he called everyone of the Lord's debtors unto him - and he said unto the first how much do I owe unto my lord - and he said a hundred measures of oil, he said take thy bill and set it down and quickly write it off. This he tells about stewardship, and the man who had not used it wisely he condemn him. The lord did not commend him - how could he - he was dishonest - he was unjust - the lord commend even the worldly steward because he was wise - now its a strange thing but Jesus commend him and he comm

There is a day of reckoning - The steward in the parbel in the story had a day of reckoning - And we know that Jesus commended the wise one.

When we think of our Christian gifts, and our christian stewardship and of God work here in this earth - oh, how it grieve use that so many people say - I give because I am forced to give, I've got to do it - I just don't have anyother choice. Necessaity is just thrust upon us. Their are other who say that they give gurgingly they would like to do something else, but they feel that they are compeléd to. Their are other who make a contribution just because cause or because they want to lift up the very end of the load - and other who give for the sake of enlighting or self interest. I am going to give just so it will be in my own interest. Yet their are other who give becaus of respectibility ever one and awhile a person gives because he wants to be respectable, he wants to try to take care of his short coming or to remove his guilt if he is able to give a little bit unto the Lord. Now the nobleman delt with these when he came back. we will not have this man to rulé over us - but they gambled their lives on the change that he would never be king, and that they would have this pound perhaps. But we know that the whole universe is going to come before the judge - and the man who has done nothing with his pound - he has had excuses - but he had

no profit. - and he had nothing to defend it - this man is typical of those who have accepted the treasure of the gospel and have never done business with it, they never show any profit they never witness - they never win a soul to Jesus - that pound is going to be taken away from them - when we neglect the stewardship of the gospel. - It may not mean we lost our salvation but it may mean the lost of christian service in this world and the world to come.

A the things about this neither of these men claimed profit to himself. Each said thy pound has gained. our labors extend the kingdom of God in the world. But we can take no credit for this gain the gospel will gain and there will be surprises in that day - some who feel that they have make great profit - will discover that their are other people who made profits.

Nothing was hidden so will be the accounting of our stewardship. We shall have the books open - and explain every entry. No man tries to do business with the gospel ever fails. The gospel has power as Jesus has said If I be lifted up from the earth I will draw all men unto me John 12:32. It will be the divinely planned society of the people - and it will require divinely prepared men and women to share int the rule of that kingdom. The Lord has given to me the treasures of glory - earthly riches - he has made me as a king unto God.

The Lord has done marvelous things. He has made us priest and as we meditate apnd the truths of God to men as represented in his Love. - my life can no longer be build around myself. But my ministry must be concreatedd to the service of the Lord. Our talents great or small belong to him - God has given them to us - Use them for him. God has given you a feild use it for God - he has given you life - prepare it desinity well - yes every day is made in the kingdom - and there will come a time when we shall truly reap concerning the credits we have, as stewards of his.

Robert Robertson wrote a wonderful hymn "Come Thy fount of Every Blessing" Later in live he became worldly and backslide one day on a train he was seated on a train by a christian woman she tried to encourage him in a releigious conversation but he was non committal without knowing who he was -- she quoted this hymn - it was to much for him he broke down and wept - saying lady I am the unhappy man who wrote that song. I would give a thousand worlds to have the same joy that I had then.

They will be remost because of our failure in stewardship Let us not only count our every blessings but us do it joyiously - let us know that God is the manager of the house.

Come, Thou Fount of Every blessing, Turn my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy, Never ceasing, Call for songs of lowliest praise Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above, Pray for me O my Father, While I play this wretched flute.