

not heard the rule, "We find time to do things we want to do".) The excuse, "haven't time", is often insincere because they who make it have abundance of time for less important things) than the work God wants them to do. Are we making as much use of our time as God would have us make of it.) For example, if we do not take time to pray, we cut the communication line. In all of our church work there is the need of more time of prayer. We are losing ground all along the line because prayer is given so small a place in our lives.

The misusing and wasting of time is one of the most besetting sins of professing Christians. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Putting off is a real thief of opportunity. An opportunity may never return. A duty put off is hard to do later on. A true steward of time will not allow procrastination to dominate his life. The habit of starting church meetings late is a thief of time. When the department superintendent fails to begin at the proper time, it handicaps and makes impossible the full success of the program for the day. How often do we hear individuals say, "Do

GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

Luke 16:2

Introduction: Only a small portion of our church members have put their financial stewardship on a Bible basis. There are vast resources of wealth in the possession of Christian men and women which have not yet been brought under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The larger stewardship has to do with the life - the inner life and the outer expression of that life. No person can really be a steward of possessions unless he has first learned this lesson. The rich young ruler could say that, "all these things have I kept from my youth up," but Jesus said, "one thing thou lackest". The most some churches have of many members is their names on the roll. They do not help very much, they do not really belong to the church. People belong to the thing to which they are most devoted. The church does not get their service, they do not attend, they are absentee members. There is no proof, for they do not participate in the worship. We cannot limit our stewardship to just property - the getting and the giving of money - but we must understand that larger stewardship is not easy. It calls for the utmost of service and self. It is harder to live than it is to give.

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Spiritual acts are more difficult than physical. It is easier to (send a check) than it is to take oneself and family to God's house. It is easier to unite with a church than it is to follow Jesus. The larger stewardship calls for the harder things. The Lord did not make it easy for anyone to become a follower. He insisted on separation, surrender and sacrifice.

(A steward) is one who is employed to transact the business of another. As his agent or representative in the business in which he is employed, his duty is to promote in the best possible manner the interest of his employer. He will have to give an account. Now this teaches us that all (men are God's stewards). It declares that the silver and the gold are his. Also that the higher talents of a man's life belong to him. Even our eating and drinking is to be to the glory of God. This is an evident fact.

### I. The Account of Time

We are bound to give an account of time. God created us, gives us life, gives us time just like a man employed - he has time to serve and he is not to use that time for his private interests. If he (wholly neglected the man's business) then he would

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be called into account and considered a wicked servant. Now you are God's steward, - have you been (neglecting God's business) for your own private interest?

If the man used his time in opposition to the man who had hired him, that would be wrong. For example, if he used his time for (speculation) he would be considered as being dishonest. Any time the man uses his time in opposing the interest of the one who is paying him, he is wasting his time.

(Time is a sacred trust) as sacred as life itself. God has made every day and we are to use this time, we are to safeguard it. Great watchfulness is necessary that we not fill our time with useless activities. (Benjamin Franklin) in giving advice to a young tradesman said, "Remember that time is money". Just as truly as he said that, time is (knowledge) time is (wisdom), time is (property), time is (power). Time is (skill) and (achievement).

Some church members (excuse themselves) from engaging in definite Christian work by saying they haven't time. This may be true and it also may be false. Have you

not use it for his own welfare or for sinful means.

In contrast, (God) has placed money and property in

the hands of people and he expects that it be used

in a worthy manner. He expects us to hear the call

of the man of Macedonia. There are many people who

feel that they have acquired property in their own

power and ability and that it belongs to them, but

did not God (create you) and has given you the talent

for acquiring possessions and using them. If the

man who has access to the wealth of another takes

some of his money he (ruins his character), but when

a man takes money from God, then what? Do you not

see that God will call you into account. Solomon

had something to say about this when he said, "There

is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun,

namely riches kept for the owners thereof to their

hurt". (Eccl. 5:13.) This was a warning concerning

wealth. Few men have labored more in all of

history than Solomon to acquire wealth. He said

in (Eccl. 2:8), "I gathered me also silver and gold",

and yet no one ever realized more than he the vanity

of wealth. In (Proverbs 18:11) we read, "The rich

man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall

not put me (on a committee) do not use me as a  
(teacher), I do not have time".

## II. An Account of Talents.

Here is a man employed to work and serve and to

use his talents, but he (neglects to use his mind)

and to promote the interest of the business. He

may even use his (talents in opposition) to the

interest of the business. This may be true in the

Christian life, - a person may use his talents in

the opposite direction or he may not use them at

all. No person is excused from service of Christ

because he does (not possess the gifts which someone)

else has. God does not ask us to use talents we do

not have but to be faithful with the talents we have.

No sane individual can say, "there is nothing I

can do". The (smallest talent man) is one who is not

except from his obligation to be a good steward.

For example, the (rich) are often criticized for not

doing greater things in God's kingdom, and in

criticizing them we often (boast and declare what

great things we would do) if we possessed an abundance

of wealth. But the point of this statement is not

*(Cov) On in pasture (Cov) 8  
Painted on side, soon another (Cov) 10, 2nd - Rich in Volume 12  
ONE Cow said to other Makes you feel so inadequate*

in the fact that they fail to do the best they can and should for Christ, but it is that we fail to do our best with what we possess. If a man is not serving God with what he has, what reason is there to expect he will serve God if he had greater resources of any kind? God has given us certain talents and he expects us to use our talents whether they be for leadership. We will not have to give an account of (someone else). We will not have to account for the man who hides his talent in (a napkin) and that hides it from Jesus. There is something for everyone to do. There is a place of service for you. We are not to hide or bury our talents but to develop and use them in the best way for the most in the Kingdom. We need to prevent somehow the waste of the talents right here in our church. This is a point where we have a real loss.

III. An Account of Influence.

Suppose you should be employed by a business firm and you (use your influence against your employer). In like fashion (God has given you influence). We cannot shut our lives away from men or avoid the

the responsibility of being stewards of our influence. We cannot go through life in isolation. As we come into contact with others, whether it be in the high-roads of public position or in the paths of private life, we are ever exerting an influence upon their minds. For none of us liveth to himself.

Like (Can), we may deny that we have a responsibility for the welfare of our brother. Nevertheless, every church member has influence which proves to be a (blessing or a curse to the church). The professing Christian may inspire people to great concecration and faithfulness in the service of Christ or he may influence people to be indifferent, critical, or throw a wet blanket over every movement of progress. Your influence is very much like a broadcasting situation. The influence you have upon one person does not stop, but goes on to another and to another.

IV. An Account of Property

The man who is employed must not use a person's money (for his own influence or his own good). Even though he has (access to the wealth) of a man, he will



God has a right to request of us that we give an account of our soul. Suppose you had a steward to whom you had given life, and educated him at great expense and then he should willfully throw that life away. (God has made your soul) sustains you until you are able to render an important service. Will you say that it is no one's business. That is false because it is everybody's business.

#### VI. An Account for the Souls of Others

God commands that you be a (Co-worker with him.) He needs your service for he saves souls only through the helpers who willingly join in with him. (If souls are lost) the prophet said, the blood will rest upon the Christian's hands. (Joseph) felt very keenly that he should be faithful in the stewardship of helping others. (Daniel) also practiced his religion in the grounds of a foreign kingdom.

#### VII. The Account of Our Opportunities.

Every Christian is accountable to God for the opportunity to serve. (This stewardship rests upon every redeemed individual.) We have more opportunity

in this advanced age. When we think of the cost of the Gospel in bringing it to us in our own language, it reminds us of how little we are doing in the way of taking advantage of the opportunity which came to us. (Now a steward is expected to transact the business) on the market at the best opportunity, at the best season. He is to have a watchful eye and to buy at the right chance. We as Christians should also not stand and wait for some great opportunity to come, but to (inspect all open doors) and enter them because many times when the opportunity passes it (never returns again).  
*K.I. with Mrs. May W. Dyer - 4 Boys - 17-11-4 - Husband died 1 yr. ago - class meeting - only what she could - Thanksgiving Day.*  
 In like fashion, (sinners) should give attention to the opportunities which are theirs, realizing there are many snares. As (Adam) illustrated in the Old Testament, had an opportunity but failed to use it. By (idleness) you may let the opportunity go by. You will suffer loss indeed. One thing to remember is that (God is the owner) that he has (first claim) upon your life and you will have to give an account of this. In the Gospel there is the statement, "Well done, good and faithful servant". These will be the words welcomed by the Christian.