

Stewardship – A Life of Grace and Purpose

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September 22, 2019



When you go home

Tell them for us and say

For your tomorrow

We gave our today

(Quoted from the book don't Waste your Life by John Piper}

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship,

created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

I Corinthians 4:1-2 - This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

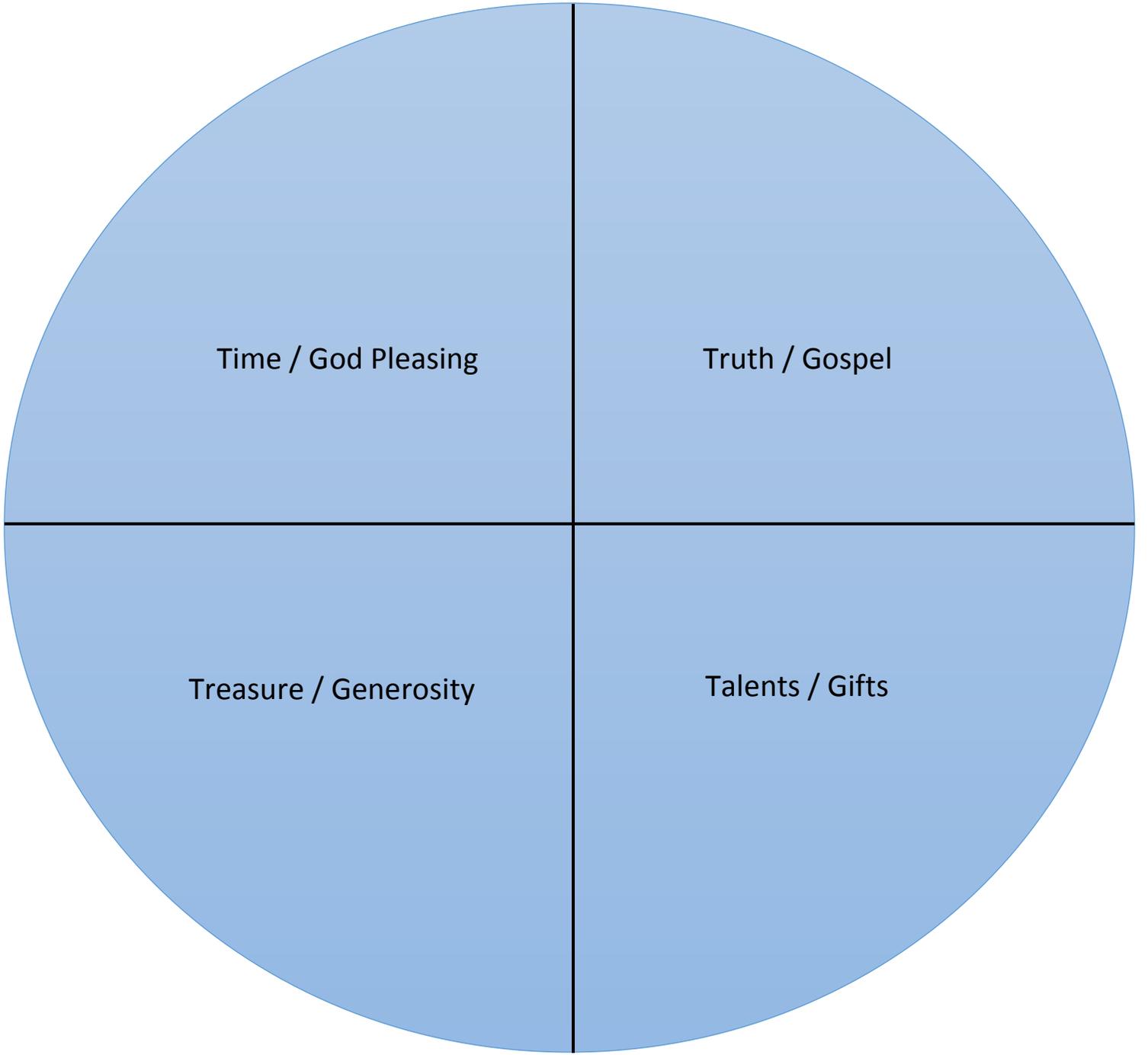
“Stewardship isn’t a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. For what is stewardship but that God has entrusted to us time, talents, money, possessions, family and his grace? In each case he evaluates how we regard and what we do with what he’s entrusted to us.” – Randy Alcorn

A steward is someone entrusted with another’s wealth or property and charged with the responsibility of managing it in the owner’s best interest. A steward is entrusted by the owner with sufficient resources and authority to carry out his designated responsibilities. (Alcorn)

God is the originator (creator) of all things.

God is the owner of all things

God orders all things.



⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching (truth /gospel) and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Fervent prayer). ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (Talents /gifts) ⁴⁴ and all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need (Treasure/generosity). ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts (Time), ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Truth - Gospel

¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound⁴ words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. - II Timothy 1:14

²⁰ O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” ²¹ for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. - I Timothy 6:20

- In Christ Jesus you are loved by God with an inseparable love. “I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God *in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8:38–39).

- In Christ Jesus you were redeemed and forgiven for all your sins. *In Christ* we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses” (Ephesians 1:7).

-In Christ Jesus you are justified before God and the righteousness of God in Christ is imputed to you. “For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that *in him* we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

- In Christ Jesus you have become a new creation and a son or daughter of God. “If anyone is *in Christ*, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). .

- In Christ Jesus the peace of God will guard your heart and mind. “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds *in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4:7).

- In Christ Jesus you have eternal life. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life *in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 6:23).

Talents – Gifts

¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. - 1 Peter 4:10-11

Treasure – Generosity

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – Matthew 6:21

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. - Matthew 6:24

“Show me your checkbook, your credit card statement, your receipt for cash expenditures and I’ll show you where your heart is,” But what we do with our money doesn’t simply indicate where our heart is, but it determines where our heart goes. If I want my heart to be in one particular place, and not in another, then I need to put my money in that place and not in the other. (i.e. my Church, missions, the poor) (Randy Alcorn)

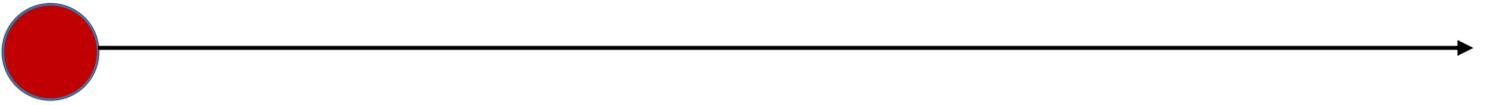
Generosity

Debt

“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender” – Proverbs 22:7

“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law” – Romans 13:8.

Time – God Pleaser



“Right now we are living in the dot. But what are we living for? The person who lives for the dot lives for treasures on earth that end in junkyards. The person who lives for the line lives for treasures in heaven that never end. Giving is living for the line”. (Alcorn)

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” – Jim Elliot

“So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

– II Corinthians 5: 9-10.

“Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil” - Ephesian 5:16

- Diligent work – “A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich”. Proverbs 10:4

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” – Acts 20:35

Through work we earn money so that we can meet the needs of our family, give to others, primarily in the church and save for future needs, reduce and avoid debt.

- Prayer and worship – “pray without ceasing”. I Thessalonians 5:17

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,” Hebrews 12:28

- Marriage – “Let marriage be held in honor among all,” Hebrews 13:4 (a)
- Children – “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”. - Proverbs 22:6
- Meeting together as a church and with those in the church - (Read) “Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” – Hebrews 10:25