

2 Cor 9:10-11
Stewardship Part 2

What in this life can we truly lay claim to? Is there anything we truly own outright? I have concluded that the answer to these questions is nothing. At best, we are simply stewards and the goal is to be good stewards. God truly owns everything.

Psalms 50:10-12 “For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. ¹² “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.” **ESV**

Haggai 2:8 “⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.” **ESV**

Eze 18:4 “Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.” **ESV**

Luke 12:20 ““But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’” **NLT**

1 Cor 6:19b-20 “¹⁹ You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” **NIV**

We own nothing. We are nothing more than stewards of that which God has given us and this fact is an appropriate segway into our text of focus this morning, verses 10-11..... Keeping in the forefront of our minds all that I have said thus far, I want to share three additional truths on the matter of stewardship drawn from these two verses.

First, God is the source of the seed and that which the seed produces. V10a “For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat.” All those talents and abilities you possess that have enabled you to do very well in life God put in you. It was God who allowed these things to produce the outcomes you now enjoy.

Yes, you worked hard. Yes, you sacrificed. You saved and invested, but God gave the increase. God smiled on you. God is the source of all that you have and enjoy. We serve a God of abundance and God is more than willing to mete out that abundance not only for our good but for the good of others, producing a harvest of generosity in us. It is a proven fact that generous people are happier and more fulfilled. Sharing what you have been given produces a spiritual blessing that results in better health, broadly. This is the blessing of God upon those who are generous towards God and others.

Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. ¹⁰Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.” **NLT**

Ecc 5:18-20 “¹⁸Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life. ¹⁹And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God. ²⁰God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past.” **NLT**

Mal 3:10-11 “¹⁰Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! ¹¹Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.” **NLT**

Second, generosity breeds true lasting wealth. V10b-11a “he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. ¹¹Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that

you can always be generous.” The Greek for enriched is ploutizō (plooo-tead-zo) and here it literally means to make rich. The promise is that God will make you wealthier (in every way) so that you can continue to be generous towards God and others. Why do the rich get richer because they plant. The problem comes when they sow only for themselves. Listen, the wealth that God promises is complete. It encompasses not just our possessions but our physical and spiritual being. For what good is wealth if you’re sick and can’t get well? What good is it if your family is in shambles and you are all alone? What good is wealth if you lose your mental faculties? What good is wealth when Jesus doesn’t know you? It’s no good. The wealth that God promises is complete. It is a wealth from God and for God. A wealth we commit to the propagating of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. You can make no greater investment than that which you make in the Kingdom of God, in the gospel of our Lord Jesus the Christ. Why? They are eternal and so the return on your investment is eternal!

Proverbs 10:22 “The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.” **ESV**

Ecc 6:1-2 “There is another serious tragedy I have seen under the sun, and it weighs heavily on humanity. ²God gives some people great wealth and honor and everything they could ever want, but then he doesn’t give them the chance to enjoy these things. They die, and someone else, even a stranger, ends up enjoying their wealth! This is meaningless—a sickening tragedy.” **NLT**

Mark 10:17-22 “¹⁷ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the

commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” **ESV**

A wealth that destroys is one that gets in between you and Jesus.

Finally, your generosity will lead to God’s glory. V11b “And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.” The energy behind all that we do is to bring glory to God’s name, to magnify our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. If our works do not produce thanksgiving to God by us and others, they are in vain. If they do not make known Jesus Christ and what he has done, they are for naught. God/Jesus must get the glory in all things. Not us or any other entity. God/Christ alone! And it is pertinent that we make sure this is the end result of our stewardship.

Isa 42:8 “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.” **NIV**

John 12:32 “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” **ESV**

Does our giving produce thanksgiving to God? Does it bring glory to His name? Is our giving making the name and work of Jesus known? In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**