

Stewardship

by Mitch Kuhn

Everything in this life is given to us by God as a stewardship. We are first caused to be evil stewards before we are judged and made into good stewards.

In the beginning God gave man the charge to subdue all that was in the earth and he also gave a command about how he was to conduct himself while subduing the earth.

Gen 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Gen 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

Gen 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

The rebellion of Adam and Eve is a type and shadow of how we rebel against God ourselves. When Paul is writing to the rebellious Corinthian Church he tells them twice they are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in them. Israel knew how terrible it would be for them to commit sexually immoral acts inside of the temple of God, but the Corinthians did not realize that their sexual immorality was the exact same thing in their own bodies.

1Co 3:16 NKJV Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1Co 3:17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

1Co 6:19 NKJV Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

At first we do not realize how great a stewardship we have been given with

these bodies of clay. We treat our bodies and minds like our own possessions and boast about all the ways we use this stewardship for our own selfish purposes.

1Co 4:7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Paul tells the Romans that their reasonable service is to offer their bodies as living sacrifices.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Here is a parable that explains how we should view our lives and service to God.

Luk 17:7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?

Luk 17:8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'?

Luk 17:9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.

Luk 17:10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' "

Since God created us and gives us everything we have, it is only our reasonable service to be obedient. We are unprofitable because we have nothing to offer to God other than what he has already given us, or what he causes us to do. We get no credit or merit for anything that he works in our lives. We ought to humbly acknowledge that everything is of God.

At first we don't realize that God is always with us and in fact dwells within our bodies as his temple. We're only faithful at certain times, like at Sunday church for example. We compartmentalize our life and steward things well at certain times then at others we are not faithful. This parable explains.

(Luk 12:42 NKJV) And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?"

(Luk 12:43 NKJV) Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

(Luk 12:44 NKJV) Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

(Luk 12:45 NKJV) But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,

(Luk 12:46 NKJV) the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

We may not physically beat God's people, but we certainly do persecute those that speak the truth. Paul was persecuting Christians and Christ that these Christians are in fact Jesus of Nazareth, his own body.

Act 22:8 So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

So any persecution of Christ's body is persecution of Christ himself. We don't even realize that we are opposing the doctrine of Christ at first; just like Paul we are drunk on false doctrine and killing God's followers in the spirit without even knowing it.

Rev 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Just as Paul was shown the error of his ways and just, so will he be humbled and judged for this. Then in due time we will be faithful servants and given the mysteries of the Kingdom to share with others. This is a process that happens over and over in our life. We are blind and disobedient in some ways, but we reject and persecute those that speak truth to us, then we are humbled and taught the truth.

Let's now examine the parable of unjust steward:

Luk 16:1 NKJV He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.

God is the rich man and we are the steward. We all waste everything in our

lives that God gives to us by sowing to the flesh rather than the spirit.

Rom 3:10 NKJV As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;

Rom 3:11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS; THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS AFTER GOD.

Rom 3:12 THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE; THEY HAVE TOGETHER BECOME UNPROFITABLE; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, NO, NOT ONE."

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

God then requires that we give an account of our stewardship. He has already written in our book that we will first be an evil steward so we are simply declaring what he has caused us to do.

Isa 63:17 NKJV O LORD, why have You made us stray from Your ways, And hardened our heart from Your fear? Return for Your servants' sake, The tribes of Your inheritance.

Luk 16:2 So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'

Luk 16:3 "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.

When we are in this carnal state of mind, we cannot dig for the treasure of God's word and we are too proud to admit our faults and beg for forgiveness. We don't yet know that God has caused our poor stewardship to humble us.

Pro 2:3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,

Pro 2:4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;

Pro 2:5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

Joh 12:39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

Joh 12:40 "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HARDENED THEIR HEARTS,

LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, LEST THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TURN, SO THAT I SHOULD HEAL THEM."

So now this unjust steward is seeing quite clearly the trials that lie ahead when his stewardship is taken away. He reduces the debts owed to his master in order to gain the favor of these men in the hopes that they will appreciate his mercy and receive him during his hour of need.

Luk 16:4 NKJV I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'

Luk 16:5 "So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

Luk 16:6 And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'

Luk 16:7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

Luk 16:8 So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly (wisely). For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

This steward is actually commended because he acted wisely. Often in business there are debts that will never be paid, so it is far wiser to reduce the debt and get some payment as opposed to having no mercy and receiving no payment. This is actually a rebuke to the "children of light" or followers of Christ.

We claim to know God and follow Christ, but we are not as wise as the children of the world when it comes to managing our physical possessions. The unjust steward in the parable was acting out of selfish motives, but nonetheless forgave a part of the debt owed. Christ explains the spiritual message of this parable in the next verse.

Luk 16:9 "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.

The unrighteous mammon represents the carnal and physical things in life that we have been given stewardship. We should forgive the debts of others that we may win them for Christ and be received into their spiritual house.

We think that debts are owed to us, but they are really owed to God because

he gave us everything we have.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

David wrote the following after killing Uriah and committing adultery with Bathsheba.

Psa 51:4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Whether it is a monetary debt or another way that someone has done us wrong, we should show mercy and forgiveness since God has forgiven us so much. This good work will be seen by others and earn us favor with them in due time when God opens their eyes. This is an application of doing good to our enemies.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Read the parable in Matthew 18:23-35 for another example.

Here is the conclusion of the parable of the unjust steward.

Luk 16:10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

Luk 16:11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

Luk 16:12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

Luk 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

In due time God will cause us to be faithful in little, so we can be given much. It starts with managing physical things in our lives and then God gives us the true riches, once He works faithfulness within us. We either love God and serve him or we serve things of the flesh. If we cannot manage the physical things in our lives well and be generous and merciful, then how can he give us the true riches to share with others?

Before we can be generous and give to others physically or spiritually, we first have to bear our own burden and get our own physical and spiritual

house in order.

I'm now going to bring out some practical applications we all need to learn and practice to be good stewards physically and spiritually.

Principal #1: Get Your Own Life In Order First

Gal 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Gal 6:5 For each one shall bear his own load.

We always have to start with ourselves before we can do anything for anyone else. This is not selfish; it's making sure that we are not a hypocrite.

Mat 7:5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

It is certainly good to ask for help and allow others to help us bear our burden, but we first need to do everything we can to bear our own burden.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

When it comes to properly stewarding the unrighteous mammon of the world, we first have to work so we can have money to manage.

2Th 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

2Th 3:8 **nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,**

2Th 3:9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: **If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.**

2Th 3:11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

2Th 3:12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

Paul and those with him labored to provide for themselves so they could set a good example for the church in Thessalonica. Paul did receive support from other mature churches to help him spread the Gospel. This is very different than the false doctrines of tithing taught in the Churches today.

Read this article to learn the truth about tithing:
<http://tryingthespirits.com/tithing/>

Principal #2: Be Diligent

To work and provide for ourselves we must be diligent as opposed to lazy.

Pro 13:4 NKJV **The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;** But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Pro 26:15 NKJV The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.

Pro 26:16 The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.

Laziness in regards to physical work is designed by God to teach us about spiritual laziness. We need to be diligent in both physical work and laboring to study and obey the word of God.

Mat 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Pro 2:4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;

Pro 2:5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

Providing good spiritual things for ourselves is no different than working a physical job. Both require time and effort. We can only labor with the strength that God gives us while acknowledging that anything we are able to do is completely of him.

There are many proverbs about both laziness and diligence. I suggest you do a search for both and study them diligently. The reward will be great.

There is a time when children are completely provided for by their parents. At first the child can't even put food in their own mouths. As the child grows they are able to eat different foods and become more and more self sufficient. So it is with babes in Christ.

At first we cannot study on our own. We have to be fed the milk by another stronger brother or sister who is acting as our spiritual parent. Eventually we

should be able to go search the studies already prepared and try to answer some of our own questions. And finally we'll have the ability to go to the bible ourselves and rightfully divide the word and even feed others.

If we never labor to feed ourselves, we will not grow. We will stay a spiritual child.

Principal #3: Count the Cost

Once we are laboring for ourselves both physically and spiritually, we have to learn to stay on a budget. Children cannot properly estimate how much anything cost, nor do they have an accurate assessment of their own abilities. Learning to count the cost and have a realistic view of our own abilities is a learning process that takes time.

Rom 12:3 NKJV For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

We need to be sober minded when it comes to both our spiritual maturity and our financial situation. There is a narrow path that leads to life which has two sides of the road in which to fall. We tend to either have too much caution and fear, which leads us not to share our talents and extra financial means, or we are over estimate our ability and commit to things we cannot complete, both physically and spiritually. It all comes down to properly counting the cost.

Luk 14:28 NKJV For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it—
Luk 14:29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him,
Luk 14:30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

One error is to underestimate how much something is going to cost or how difficult it is going to be. At first we simply do not have enough experience to properly assess how much money or resources are needed to complete a given task or meet our needs. This is where we need wise counsel.

We should talk with others that make wise financial decisions and have experience in how to handle this type of situation. They will be able to help us make good decisions.

Pro 11:14 Where *there is* no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

Pro 15:22 Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

The same is true for spiritual matters. I've learned a lot about what is required to prepare a study or lead a group meeting. At first I drastically underestimated the amount of time and labor required, so I would commit to tasks that were very stressful or impossible to do.

It's also good to get wise counsel as we assess how God has gifted us. When someone sings badly or can't play an instrument well, they should not be trying to provide music for the body of Christ. The same goes for any gift. We need to honestly assess what God has given us and act accordingly.

1Co 12:20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

1Co 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

1Co 12:22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

1Co 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

1Co 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

1Co 12:30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

1Co 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

This study series by Larry Groenewald will explain all the various functions in the Body: <http://tryingthespirits.com/gifts-ministries-and-operations/>

The Lord will manifest your function in due time.

2Co 8:12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, **and not according to what he does not have.**

2Co 8:13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened;

2Co 8:14 but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality.

2Co 8:15 As it is written, "HE WHO GATHERED MUCH HAD NOTHING LEFT OVER, AND HE WHO GATHERED LITTLE HAD NO LACK."

Verse 15 above is a quote from Exodus 16:18.

If God wants us to share something with others, then he will give us more than what we need for ourselves. Some have families that simply require more physical and spiritual resources in their care. That is to be their first priority before they share anything with the Body of Christ.

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

This is a part of bearing our own burden. We can't be giving money to others when we cannot pay our own bills. In the same way we can't be trying to serve the Body of Christ, if our wives and children are being neglected or own spiritual house is a mess. We cannot help someone spiritually if our own spiritual life is not in order. Bear your own burden then serve others.

Also, if the Lord is not providing you enough to share with anyone else, physically or spiritually, don't worry. Focus on plowing your own field and God will give you something to share in due time. For some it will be a little and some it will be a lot. The quantity does not matter, it's the condition of our heart.

Luk 21:1 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury,

Luk 21:2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites.

Luk 21:3 So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all;

Luk 21:4 for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

The Lord will provide each of us both a physical and spiritual stewardship. All he requires is that we be faithful with what we are given.

Pro 12:11 (ESV) Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

We need to be realistic and not big dreamers. Faithfulness and consistency will be blessed.

Principal #4: Avoid Debt

We have been trained by society that debt is no big deal because everyone has it, car payments, house payments, credit cards, etc. The truth is that debt is likened to slavery.

Pro 22:7 NKJV The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower *is* servant to the lender.

One of the major reasons that we go into debt is that we are not content with what we have at the moment.

1Ti 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

1Ti 6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

I remember learning this years ago... if you can't buy it in cash twice over and still be comfortable, don't buy it. As wealthy as my Dad was, he rarely had the newest or best of anything. He had nice things, but he waited until he could pay cash and bought things that were quality and typically used. He valued financial security for himself and our family over having any possession. My dad is not a Godly man, but he sure got this right.

1Ti 5:8 NKJV But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

We are bombarded every day with advertisements designed to excite our lust and make us want something new. The lie is that having this particular item will make us happier in some way.

Mat 13:22 NKJV Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the **deceitfulness of riches** choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Any riches of the world, whether it be the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, or the pride of life are ALL deceitful. They do not give us what we think they promise.

Ecc 1:8 NKJV All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.

The book of Ecclesiastes makes it so clear that the pursuit of carnal riches

and pleasure do not satisfy longer than a fleeting season. Sin certainly does have pleasure for a season, but when it grows and bears fruit it is terrible to behold.

Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
Heb 11:25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
Heb 11:26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

We often get into debt because we love the things of the world more than the things of God.

1Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Some people go into debt physically because God gives them over to their lusts. Others pursue their lusts and develop great wealth physically. They build bigger and bigger barns to store their riches and are not rich towards God. This leads to spiritual poverty and debt. Both the rich and the poor can be destitute and in debt spiritually speaking.

The solution is godliness with contentment, which only God can work in our lives.

1Ti 6:6 NKJV Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

1Ti 6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

1Ti 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1Ti 6:10 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.

1Ti 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

The Lord can give us abundance or poverty in anything at any time and we must learn to be content with either state. Paul sums this up so well in Philippians 4.

Php 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

Php 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

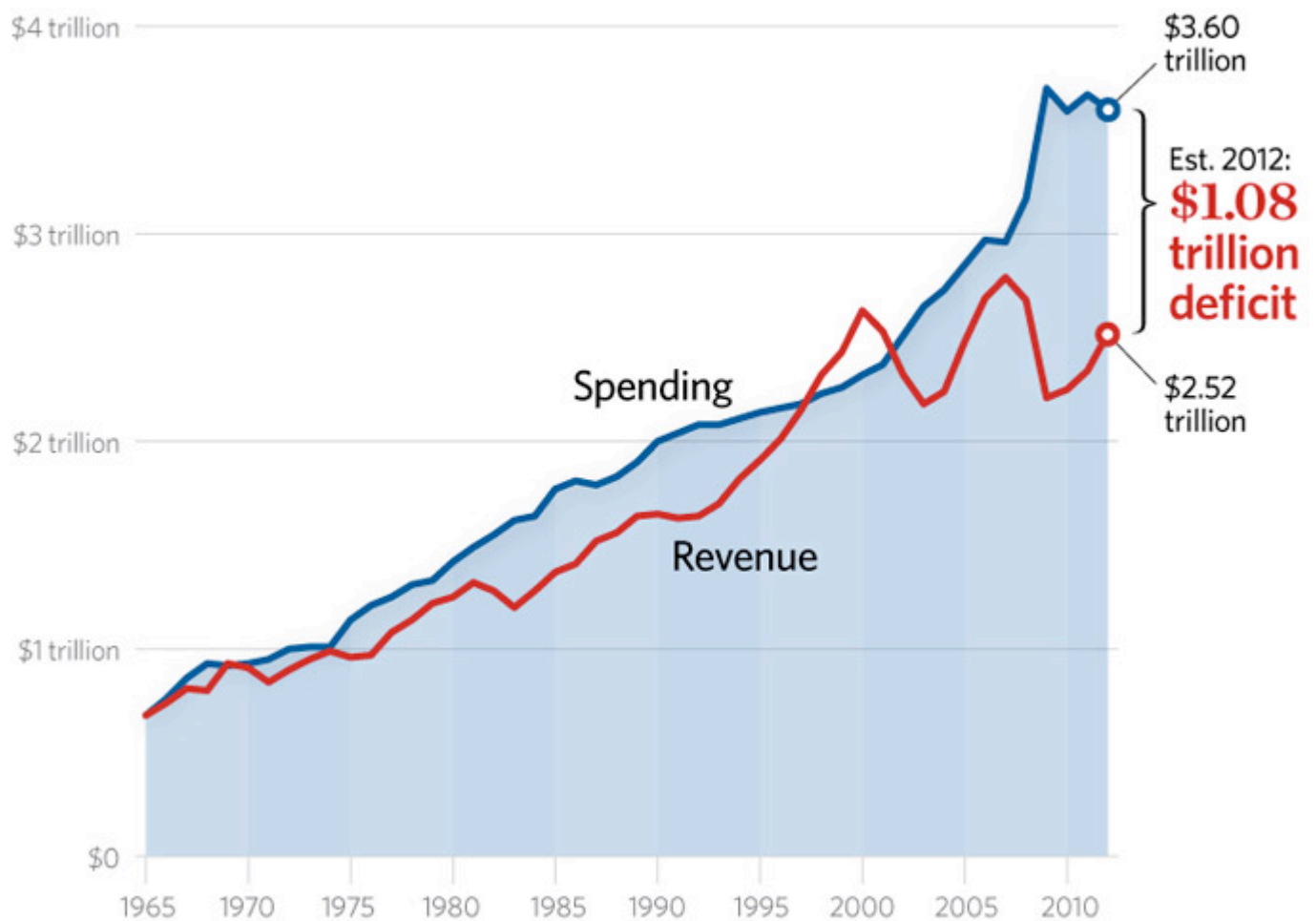
If we are poor, praise the Lord for food and clothing that he provides and be content. If he gives us abundance to share, praise the Lord and share. If we only have the wealth to barely care for ourselves, let us be content and praise the Lord. If we have the strength to serve others, let us praise the Lord and be content. To be content in all situations is truly a miracle.

Regardless of how much or what we are given, it is for the purpose of sowing to the spirit.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

There is an incredible shadow of these spiritual truths regarding debt in our world today. Let's take the USA for example. Nearly every year since 1965 the US government has spent more money than it has revenue. This overspending has been a problem for a long time, but it has gotten dramatically worse in the past 10 years. In 2012 there was an approximate 1 trillion dollar deficit. Simply stated the US spent 1 trillion more dollars than it made.



Source: [Office of Management and Budget](#).

To put this into perspective, it would be like someone making \$40,000 per year spending nearly \$60,000 per year, \$20,000 more than they make, plus having \$272,000 worth of debt. Everyone is going to have bad times when you need to dip into savings, but the US has no savings. The current debt is nearly 17 trillion dollars.

Japan's debt is so bad that they spend 50% of all government revenue on debt service. This would be like the person making \$40,000 paying \$20,000 on credit card interest payments. Japan has 1 quadrillion yen of debt.

One of the reasons that debt among countries has gotten so out of control is that there is no asset backing their currency. For example, "In 1971, President Richard Nixon unilaterally ordered the cancellation of the direct convertibility of the United States dollar to gold. This act was known as the Nixon Shock¹." The dollar is no longer an asset. It only has value as long as people agree that it has value and agree to accept it in exchange for

goods and services.

Now that there is no asset backing the dollar, the Federal Reserve can create money out of thin air whenever they want. Currently they add 85 billion every month. This makes all of the dollars in the world worth less and less over time. Adding \$1 to the US money supply actually creates up to \$10, because we have a fractional reserve banking system. If a bank gets one million dollars from the Fed, they can loan out ten million dollars or more. This causes artificial growth in the economy and rapidly increases the total debt in the market.

This debt game works as long as the interest on the debt can be paid and others are willing to loan more money. This is like a person that has lots of credit card debt, a large personal loan, and a good job. As long as they can make the payments and don't max out their credit cards everything on the surface seems fine. However, what if they lose their job, make less money one year, or max out their credit cards? It happens to people every day and they go bankrupt and lose everything.

We will reap what we sow. If we consistently spend more than we make and continually borrow money, it will eventually catch up to us. If we think of ourselves more highly than we ought spiritually, it will eventually catch up with us. God will humble everyone in due time and teach us to live within our means and accurately assess the faith he has given to each us.

No one can escape reaping what they sow. God will eventually cause the evil to bear fruit. We do not know when God will manifest this fruit within any particular person or Government. Just don't be surprised if the country that you reside goes through a serious economic crisis because of their bad stewardship that God has caused.

Types and Shadows in the Old Testament

Everything in the Old Testament was written as a shadow of what would come upon God's people when they are judged in the spirit.

1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

If God is dealing with us we are going through judgment now.

1Pe 4:17 NKJV For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not

obey the gospel of God?

This judgment is described as the "ends of the ages".

Mat 13:39 YLT and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is a full end of the age, and the reapers are messengers.

Mat 13:40 YLT As then, the darnel is gathered up, and is burned with fire, so shall it be in the full end of THIS age,

The end of this current evil age is the beginning of judgment. It's when the fire of God's word begins to consume us.

Jer 23:29 KJV Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Jer 5:14 KJV Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

Now that we know this fire is not "eternal" we can see that this fire is actually what saves us.

(Mat 13:49 YLT) so shall it be in the full end of the age, the messengers shall come forth and separate the evil out of the midst of the righteous, (Mat 13:50 YLT) and shall cast them to the furnace of the fire, there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of the teeth.'

1Co 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Read this study for more on the ages:
<http://tryingthespirits.com/2012-09/ages-eons/>

In the book of Exodus we find Israel in slavery in Egypt crying out for deliverance. The Lord says that he will deliver them from their bondage and he will be their God and they will be his people.

Exo 6:6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; **I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.**

Exo 6:7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the

burdens of the Egyptians.

Exo 6:8 And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.' "

The Lord made it quite clear how Israel was to behave and be His people. In Exodus 20 He gives them the 10 commandments.

Exo 20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exo 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Exo 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

Exo 20:5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Exo 20:6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Just twelve chapters later in Exodus they violate this command.

Exo 32:1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

Exo 32:2 And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."

Exo 32:3 So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.

Exo 32:4 And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

Exo 32:5 So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD."

Exo 32:6 Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Exo 32:7 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.

Exo 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and

worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' "

Exo 32:9 And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!

Exo 32:10 Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

This is exactly what we do in our own lives. Being in bondage in Egypt is a shadow of us being in slave to sin. We cry out for deliverance and then become unjust stewards with the freedom God has given to us. It is the Lord that causes this rebellion.

Isa 63:17 NKJV O LORD, why have You made us stray from Your ways, And hardened our heart from Your fear? Return for Your servants' sake, The tribes of Your inheritance.

Here is yet another example in the book of Jeremiah.

Jer 19:2 NKJV And go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is by the entry of the Potsherd Gate; and proclaim there the words that I will tell you,

Jer 19:3 and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle.

Jer 19:4 "Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocents

Jer 19:5 (they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind),

Jer 19:6 therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.

Jer 19:7 And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives; their corpses I will give as meat for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth.

Through this rebellion we are shown our sin and then chastened to forsake evil.

Jer 2:19 Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the LORD your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord GOD of hosts.

Jer 2:20 "For of old I have broken your yoke and burst your bonds; And you said, 'I will not transgress,' When on every high hill and under every green tree You lay down, playing the harlot.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

I hope and pray that the Lord will use this study to teach you to become a good steward of all you have, both physically and spiritually.