

SALVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

1 Peter 4:10 ... "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

In our previous devotional we spoke about stewardship in the context of the resources God has entrusted to our care for the purpose of serving him. Today let us look at stewardship in the context of salvation. Our verse teaches us that we are stewards of God's grace, under which we are empowered to minister to others.

Every person or angel who ever lived, was created for a special purpose in God's kingdom. Obviously, not everyone accepts God as their creator. They live only for themselves. But when that happens – when people ignore the purpose for which God created them – they are violating the key principle of stewardship. God gave you breath, a body, a mind, and a soul for the dual purpose of worshipping and serving him. There is no other reason for your existence. Even if your mother conceived you in sin before she was married or as the result of rape, your life belongs to God.

You are God's property. Your entire life is on loan from God. The clothes on your back, your strong arms, your sharp mind, your home, the food you eat, the air you breathe – all belong to God and are provided to you so that you can follow his plan for your life, which is to honor him. If you were born with weak arms (or no arms), a dull mind, in poverty, with little food to eat, or if you live in a place with polluted air, there is a purpose for you, too. This is true of every human being and every angel who ever existed, including Lucifer, the fallen angel we know as satan. Even satan belongs to God. But he is a warning to us of the consequences of rebelling against God and God's plan. Your life is the very definition of stewardship; something loaned to you by God to serve his purpose.

If you accept Jesus as your Savior, if you live as obediently as possible to his instructions, if you confess your sins and forgive others of their sins against you, and if you tell others about Jesus, you will fulfill God's plan for your life. However, by rejecting Christ and living according to satan's plan for you, you rob God of his property: You. The life he loaned you is priceless and worth more than all the treasures of the earth. Stealing from God never has a good ending.

Are you a good steward of the life and resources (talents, mind, time and money) with which God has blessed you? Consider your life and decide today, before it is too late, to be a proper steward of what God has given you.

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