

STEWARDSHIP IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY – LESSON 1 (STEWARDSHIP FOR HIS GLORY) COLOSSIANS 3:1-3; 1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 **JULY 4**

Introduction

Our great desire over the next few weeks is to come to a clear understanding that this world is not our home; we are simply passing through as strangers, pilgrims and ambassadors (1 Peter 2:5-11; 2 Corinthians 5:20) for from a heavenly kingdom. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, we are referred to as ambassadors. According to the *Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language*, an ambassador is "a minister of the highest rank employed by one prince [His name is Jesus] or a state [it is called heaven], to manage the public concerns of his own prince or state, and representing the power of his sovereign." In light of this fact, we should become "good stewards." Of course, when we talk about stewardship we are talking about being faithful stewards of our time, our talents, and our treasures. Regrettably, far too many professing children of God are more focused on that which is of this world not that which is of the next world. **NOWHERE IS THIS MORE EVIDENT THAN IN HOW WE DEAL WITH THE MATTER OF THE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TIME, OUR TALENTS AND OUR TREASURES!**

1. The apostle Paul wrote, "If ye then be risen with Christ (saved), seek those things which are above (eternal), where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection (your love and devotion) on things above (eternal things), not on the things of this earth" (Colossians 3:2).
2. Not being of this world means we should be "dead" to all of its attractions, allurements, and ambitions. In other words, we should "set our affection on things above." Yes, we live in the world, we are sent to the world as missionaries and ambassadors, but we are dead to the things of this world.
3. The apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, makes it clear that for those of us who profess to be saved ("risen with Christ"), must "seek those things which are above."
4. And, this will not happen unless we first "set [our] affection on things above." The word "set," according to *Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language* means "To fix; to place; as the heart of affections; to fix firmly!" It is interesting to note that Webster's not only gives the definition but they refer to this verse. In other words, to set our affections on things above means to be firmly fixed or focused on things above [that which is heavenly], not on things which are below [earthly].

Principles to Ponder:

1. As believers we are redeemed by the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19)
2. As believers we belong to HIM (1 Corinthians 6:15-20)
3. As believers all that we do should bring HIM glory (1 Corinthians 10:31)
 - Our entire philosophy for living should be based on this truth
4. As believers we are to be faithful stewards of all that He has entrusted into our care (1 Corinthians 4:2)
 - This would include our time (Ephesians 5:17) and our talents (Matthew 5:14-30)

Jonathon Edwards, the great Puritan preacher, often spoke of heaven. He said: "It becomes us to spend this life only as a journey toward heaven ... to which we should subordinate all other concerns of life. Why should we labor for or set our hearts on anything else, but that which is our proper end and true happiness?" In one of his resolutions he wrote: "I am resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can."