

I Corinthians 4:1-7

Stewardship

Introduction:

One of the major responsibilities of preachers as well as Christian servants who listen to sermons is not to adulterate the word of God. We must not be crafty in our interpretation of Scripture but we must in every case keep the text in the context, otherwise we will be guilty of twisting and inserting our ideas into the text which often prove to contradict other Scriptural texts. Paul states it clearly, “We have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God.” (II Cor. 4:1-2) We must keep in mind that the Bible is not a book of proof texts in order to support our own personal opinions. It is a book of God’s truth that must be diligently studied and handled correctly. (II Tim. 2:15)

I. Requirements Of Stewards – v.1-6

A. God’s Preachers

1. Holding the mysteries of God (inspired Revelation)
2. Servants of Christ – Gk. Huperetes “under rower of a ship”

B. Stewards

1. Gk. “supervisors of a large estate”
2. House managers of the church – Acts 20:27

C. Requirements:

1. He must be found faithful – I Peter 4:10; Acts 2:42
2. He must be able to give an account – Acts 15:1-29; Prov. 15:22

D. Show appreciation for Pastors – I Thess. 5:12; Heb. 13:17;

Turn To: Luke 16:1-15

1. The steward here is praised not for being dishonest, but for being clever and astute.
2. Lesson for us: Make sound provision for the future
3. Main principle – If a person can be trusted in handling a matter of small importance, he can be trusted with more important matters - Luke 16:10,11
4. Two Masters – It’s impossible to serve two masters – Luke 22:3-6; Phil. 3;7

II. Receiving the Benefits of Grace – v.7

A. Paul correcting the Corinthian attitude

1. Paul’s *two* rhetorical questions
2. No native endowments – Turn To: I Corinthians 12:1-7; Jam. 1:17
3. Paul’s *third* rhetorical question – the answer is self-evident (Simon Kistemaker);
II Thess. 2:13

Conclusion:

1. ***Remember what God requires of us as stewards in our families, homes, businesses, and service in the church. Its faithfulness, steady perseverance and trustworthiness.***
2. ***Remember your God given gifts to use them to the fullest without boasting as if you created them. They are gifts of God received and therefore we must show our gratitude and continual thanksgiving.***

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