

## ***Why Should You Develop a Stewardship Plan?***



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### **1. This Life is Short**

Physical death is the destiny that awaits every person. The curse of sin on this current world is that everything degenerates and dies. The hope of the Christian is that continual fellowship with God has been prepared for those who love Christ in a sinless, eternal, resurrected Earth– Heaven– Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 21:1-8. Throughout the Bible, God has instructed His people to use money, abilities, time and health to love Him and serve mankind– Mark 12:28-31.

### **2. God Commands Us to Be Good Stewards**

The Bible reminds us that we are to embrace trials, self-denial and sacrifice in this life for the causes of Christ in exchange for unfathomable rewards in the eternal life. There are four areas that I have identified to focus on becoming increasingly excellent managers:

**Money**– Matthew 6:19-21, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**Abilities/Work**– Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

**Time**– Ephesians 5:16, “Make the best use of time, because the days are evil.”

**Health**– I Corinthians 6:19-20, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

### **3. The Gain Far Outweighs the Pain**

Our Creator knows our nature. He knows that we have been wired to seek reward and happiness. He doesn't expect us to sacrifice and suffer without purpose. Salvation is an unmerited gift to undeserving sinners– of which we all qualify. But the Scriptures command us to “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:12. When we exert effort to excel at the stewardship of money, abilities, time and health for God's glory, we are trading momentary pleasures for eternal treasures. The Bible is clear that faithfulness to Christ will not go unrewarded.