

CORE VALUES

Why What We Believe Defines Who We Are

The Economy of God

Psalm 24:1-2; I Corinthians 4:1-2

Introduction: The Christian & Missionary Alliance has a legacy of strong support for the work of world mission. A component of our historical roots and values includes a serious commitment to be good stewards of God's gracious gifts and to honor Him from our wealth. Stewardship, however, is not simply about money or about how much we give, it arises from a much deeper awareness of God's economy and His gracious purposes and provisions for our lives. The concept of Biblical stewardship begins in the Old Testament, in the Garden of Eden (where else?), and has more to do with what God has given us than with what we give back to Him.

I. The Meaning of Stewardship—Managers of God's Possessions

A. The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it—Psalm 24:1-2

1. Psalm 24:1-2
2. Psalm 50:10-15
3. Genesis 1:28-31
4. Deuteronomy 26:1-16

B. We are managers of what God owns—I Corinthians 4:1-2

1. The world is our temporary abode, but not our home: Hebrews 11:13
2. Our Kingdom is not of this world's system (politics & economy)
See John 18:36 and I John 3:1
3. Our focus is to be oriented toward God's interests: Matthew 6:19-34

II. Biblical Stewardship is Rooted in the Confidence (the Faith) that God Knows Our Needs and Will Provide for Us

A. The Meaning of Sabbath in God's Economy

1. The Sabbath was made for man (Mark 2:24-28)
2. Man was created into the Sabbath rest of God (Genesis 2:1-3)
3. Manna and the Sabbath (Exodus 16:11-31)
4. The land and the Sabbath year & year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25)

B. Faithful Stewards Maintain God's Priorities

1. A sad note regarding the Babylonian captivity (II Chronicles 36:20-21)
There is no record that Israel ever kept the Sabbath year or the year of Jubilee
2. God has made the Sabbath for us that we may enjoy Him and each other, He has intended that we should have generous periods of rest from labor in order to cultivate our relationship with Him in the confidence that He will provide for us throughout the prescribed periods (See Psalm 127:1-2)
3. God designed an economy that elevates relationships over productivity. He owns everything and we are merely managers of His possessions. He intends us to obey Him and recognize His gracious provision by keeping Sabbath and by giving the first fruits.

The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the rivers.
(Psa 24:1-2 NAS)

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.(1Co 4:1-2 NAS)

Alliance Bible Church Core Values

- *Celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ through corporate worship in two languages.*
- *Boldly proclaiming the fullness of His Gospel: Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.*
- *Building up one another in love through small group community, prayer, and discipleship.*
- *Serving our community through meaningful acts of loving service.*
- *Obeying the call of the Great Commission through sacrificial support of missions of every kind.*

