What the Bible Teaches about Stewardship

I. Review of What We Have in Christ

A. I Corinthians 12:13	all baptized by the Spirit into one body
B. I Corinthians 6:19-20	indwelled by the Holy Spirit
C. I Corinthians 12:27-28	all possess gifts of the Spirit
D. Galatians 5:22-25	fruits of the Spirit, walk in the Spirit
E. James 2:17-18	good works as a result of our faith

II. The Reality of Stewardship --- "The Truth about Right Living" (1996)

A. Matthew 22:37-39 B. Matthew 6:33 Love the Lord above all and others as self Trust the Lord to meet your needs

- C. Matthew 20:20-28
 - Matthew 20:26 minister (diakonos) -> "one who executes the commands of another, especially of a master, a servant, attendant, minister; from diako meaning to run errands."
 - 2. Matthew 20:27 servant (doulos) -> "a slave, bondman, one who gives himself up to another's will."
- D. I Corinthians 4:1-2, "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."
 - 1. I Corinthians 4:1 ministers (hyperetes) -> "any one who serves with hands: a servant"
 - I Corinthians 4:1 stewards (oikonomos) -> "a steward, manager, superintendent (whether free-born or as was usually the case, a freed-man or a slave) to whom the head of the house or proprietor has intrusted the management of his affairs"
 - I Corinthians 4:1 mysteries (musterion) -> "a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding, a hidden purpose or counsel"

Some of the mysteries of God:

a) Romans 11:25	blindness of Israel for Gentile's sake
b) I Corinthians 15:51	we shall not all sleep but will all be changed
c) Ephesians 3:3-6	mystery of Christ - fellow-heirs in Christ with the Jews
d) Ephesians 5:31-32	relationship of man-wife, Christ-church
e) II Thessalonians 2:7	mystery of iniquity (related to the end times)

4. I Corinthians 4:2 - faithful (pistos) -> "one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust, that can be relied on"

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STRIVE TO LIVE EQUALLY WELL ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GRAVE

The significance of this life when compared to eternity70 limitImit as N approaches infinity = 0 N		
Psalm 90:10our days in this life are threescore and tenJohn 3:16existence after death is eternal, or everlasting		
1. The significance of this life (70/N) when eternity (N) = 100 is 0.7 2. The significance of this life (70/N) when eternity (N) = 1000 is 0.07 3. The significance of this life (70/N) when eternity (N) = 10000 is 0.007 4. The significance of this life (70/N) when eternity (N) = 100000 is 0.0007 5. The significance of this life (70/N) when eternity (N) = 1000000 is 0.00007 6. The significance of this life (70/N) when eternity (N) = 1000000 is 0.000007 7. The significance of this life (70/N) when eternity (N) = 10000000 is 0.000007		

III. What Stewardship Involves - Care for self, family, others, and possessions

A. Those things for which we are responsible:

1. Matthew 28:19-20	reaching the lost (others)
2. Titus 2:11-12	our lifestyle (self)
3. Romans 13:8	our finances (possessions)
4. I Timothy 5:8	our family, widows in deed (family)
5. James 2:14-17	those in true need (others)
6. I Corinthians 8:9	other saints (others)

- B. How should we behave in order to be good stewards?
 - 1. We should have a heart for reaching the lost by using the talents and resources that the Lord has made available to us in the way that He would have us use those talents and resources.
 - 2. We should live disciplined, intelligent, sober, righteous lives.
 - 3. We should be smart with the money in which we have been entrusted. Debt makes us slaves to the wrong master, and bad spending habits can keep us from using our finances for the Lord.
 - 4. We should live lives that will not cause others to stumble.
 - 5. We should do our best to understand how the Holy Spirit is leading us, and what He is trying to accomplish in our lives.
- IV. What are the consequences of not obeying the Holy Spirit:

A. Hebrews 12:7-8	chastisement (consequence 1)
B. I Corinthians 3:11-15	loss of rewards (consequence 2)
C. John 15:2, 6	premature death (consequence 3)
D. PERSONAL FAILURE !!!	