

## A STEWARD MUST BE DEPENDABLE

A steward is one who has been entrusted with the possessions, or property, of another. Therefore, hi seeking a steward, the number-one characteristic that one must look for is dependability. Can he be trusted? Is he reliable? Could I entrust my possessions to him? There is a need for honesty, loyalty and dependability in the world and hi the church. Paul wrote, “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

Many people placed in positions of trust are lacking the necessary qualification of trust. This morning before I began writing this article I read of an insurance agent who has been charged with bilking his clients and his employer out of 1.4 million dollars over a period of thirteen years. According to the charges, he tricked clients into giving him money for fake insurance policies and duped his employer into paying him bonuses for his work. Here was a man in a position of trust who, if the charges are true, utterly failed. Every day we read in the paper or hear news reports of people in positions of trust (preachers, teachers, doctors, nurses, baby sitters, parents, etc.) who have been woefully lacking in the area of trust. However, this is nothing new. Judas, one of the twelve apostles, was given the responsibility of the treasury, i.e., “the bag.” John tells us that he was a thief (John 12:6). Evidently, he was not a thief when given the responsibility of the treasury, but he became such. The temptation was too great for him and he succumbed.

Jacob was a faithful steward of the possessions of Laban, his cousin. Though Jacob had deceived his father in stealing the blessing from Esau, his brother, the record indicates that Jacob was honest and dependable in working for Laban. Later, when Laban charged Jacob with having stolen his gods, and a search had been made for them but nothing was found, Jacob was irate, fit to be tied. He said:

“What is my trespass? what is my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me? Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set it here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both. This twenty years have I been with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not east their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten. That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes. Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times. Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of

Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight” (Gen. 31:36-42).

An overseer in the Lord’s church is a steward of God. Titus wrote, “For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God;...” (Titus 1:7.) God has entrusted to elders the souls under their charge. The writer of Hebrews said, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” (Heb. 13:17.) They must see that the flock is fed the word of God. They must be watchful for false teachers, wolves appearing in sheep’s clothing (Acts 20:28-32; Matt. 7:15-20). They must seek those who have gone astray (Luke 15:3-10).

Preachers are stewards of the gospel. They are duty-bound to preach the word. Paul charged Timothy, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (II Tim. 4:2-4.) This must be done without fear or favor. Preachers will have to give an account for their preaching (Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:1-16; Acts 20:26-27).

Bible class teachers are entrusted with the souls in their care. Therefore, it is a grave responsibility to teach the truth to them, regardless of the ages of the students. Lois and Eunice had an unfeigned faith, that is, a sincere faith, one that was not hypocritical. Timothy imbibed that same faith (II Tim. 1:5). Students must see that same kind of faith in their teachers. This means our teachers are to be faithful to the services of the church. They must live lives that exemplify the gospel of Christ. Paul wrote to Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (II Tim. 2:2).

Since time is a precious commodity, we must use it wisely in the service of the Lord. We have but a few moments each week hi our Bible classes and worship services *in* which to instill the truth in the hearts of others. Therefore, time must not be wasted. Bible centered and Bible filled lessons must be prepared each week for each class. Every teacher should do his or her very best each class period.

Parents are stewards of their children. God blesses our homes with children (Psa. 127:3). While our children are young, they can be molded and formed for the Master’s use. Many parents neglect this great duty. They are busy here and there while their children are being influenced in

the wrong direction. The greatest impact that a parent can have on a child is his or her example.

Looking back 35 or 40 years, I can recall a few of my mother’s expressions, but her powerful example lives in my life daily. The Lord came first in her life before anything else. She was faithful to A-L-L the services of the church. Nothing deterred her from the meetings of the saints Sunday mornings, Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. She attended the gospel meetings. She sat toward the front. When the preacher was preaching, she was listening and taking notes. She taught Bible classes and had home Bible studies with others. She visited the sick. She entertained strangers, keeping them in her humble abode. For the most of our growing-up years, she did this without a husband and our father around to help.

One of the great examples of a good steward is Joseph. When he landed in Egypt, having been sold into slavery by his brothers, he was bought by Potiphar, who made him overseer of his house and all that he had. Joseph faithfully served Potiphar. However, Potiphar’s wife falsely accused Joseph of having made sexual advances toward her, and he was thrown into prison. Perhaps, Potiphar knew his wife’s ways; otherwise, he might have had Joseph put to death. While in prison he was a good steward over all the prisoners. His dependability and God’s blessings led to his having been given charge of Pharaoh’s house as well as of all Egypt. So, one can see the principle that he that is faithful in the few or little things will also be faithful in the many or the large things.

Members of the church are stewards as well. Each of us must use his time, talent, and means God has given to him to spread the borders of the kingdom to the best of his ability and opportunity. One day each of us shall give an account of his own stewardship (Luke 16:2; II Cor. 5:10). Jesus asked, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?” (Luke 12:42)

Can the Lord count on you? Can the church here count on your being dependable? Are you here for all the services? Are you giving your best to the Master?

**Ben F. Vick, Jr. *from The Informer***

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*True religion is the life we live, not the creed we profess.*

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Jameson Gragg, 03-01; Karen Brewer, 03-02.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Janice Carter (PM), Joy Parish, Wanda Wilson.  
**Wednesday:** Karen Brewer, Janice Carter. Dee Adams is scheduled for hand surgery on Wednesday, March 1. Janice Carter had an MRI on Thursday, February 23. Those battling cancer: Bo Marcum's sister, and Ledgia Campbell. Allen Scott had a good check-up last week. Leta Thrasher was released from Cox South on Friday and is at home recovering. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, Kim Clark, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## **AT HOME**

Bob Adams is at the Del Mar Gardens, Room 229. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy is extended to Gary Cole and family in the passing of his Aunt last week. Funeral services were held in Denison, TX on Tuesday, February 21.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

Wilba Hopkins is visiting relatives in Iola, KS. Jeremy Keifer was in Sapulpa, OK last weekend. The James' family was in Yuma, AZ last week.

## **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Melanie Tullis' new phone number is: 913-652-6838.

## **POT LUCK DINNER**

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, March 5 following our AM worship. Plan to come, bring a dish and enjoy the good food and company!

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 58; Sunday PM, 47; Wednesday PM, 46.

## **Those To Serve**

February 26, 2006

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Brewer**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson**  
**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Ken Greer**  
**PRESIDE.....Jeremy Keifer**  
**ASSIST.....John James**  
**ASSIST.....David Adams**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Myron Nebergall**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Michael Simmons**  
**LORD'S SUPPER.....Jeremy Keifer**

### **WEDNESDAY March 1st**

**SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**INVITATION ..... Joel Nelson**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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