



# YOUTH SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

*Second Year, Third Quarter*

## Christian Stewardship

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SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS**

SECOND YEAR, THIRD QUARTER

Christian  
Stewardship

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## INTRODUCTION

The Sabbath School Lessons for this quarter are very important for Christians, young and old. Since God made and owns everything that we are and have, we have a solemn responsibility and privilege to return to Him that which He asks for. Every good thing we enjoy is a gift from the Giver of all good gifts and should be received as such. The Lord not only made our earth and everything in it, but also the creatures and things that He so lovingly made are guided and sustained every day, hour, and moment.

Therefore, our time, talents, and means should be used joyfully for the support of His work and for the benefit of our fellowmen. Furthermore, all of our resources, such as property, investments, and any advantage that we may have, are given to us to hold and use in trust for the Master as faithful stewards, multiplying them for His honor and glory.

May God help the young people to be faithful stewards so that one day they will hear the sweet words of Jesus: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21.



1. Who is the rightful owner of everything in this world, including all that we are and possess? Haggai 2:8.

“Every good thing of earth was placed here by the bountiful hand of God as an expression of His love to man. The poor are His, and the cause of religion is His. The gold and the silver are the Lord’s; and He could rain them from heaven if He chose.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 15.

2. Why is this so? Isaiah 40:26.

“The same creative energy that brought the world into existence is still exerted in upholding the universe...”

“The same creative energy that brought the world into existence is still exerted in upholding the universe and continuing the operations of nature. The hand of God guides the planets in their orderly march through the heavens. It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth continues her motion around the sun and produces her bounties. The word of God controls the elements. He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth. He makes the valleys fruitful and ‘grass to grow upon the mountains.’ Psalm 147:8. It is through His power that vegetation flourishes, that the leaves appear and the flowers bloom.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 185, 186.

3. What did King David acknowledge? 1 Chronicles 29:14-16.

“The power of God is manifested in the beating of the heart, in the action of the lungs, and in the living currents that circulate through the thousand different channels of the body. We are indebted to Him for every moment of existence, and for all the comforts of life. The powers and abilities that elevate man above the lower creation, are the endowment of the Creator.

“He loads us with His benefits. We are indebted to Him for the food we eat, the water we drink, the clothes we wear, the air we breathe. Without His special providence, the air would be filled with pestilence and poison. He is a bountiful benefactor and preserver.

“The sun which shines upon the earth, and glorifies all nature, the weird, solemn radiance of the moon, the glories of the firmament, spangled with brilliant stars, the showers that refresh the land, and cause vegetation to flourish, the precious things of nature in all their varied richness, the lofty trees, the shrubs and plants, the waving grain, the blue sky, the green earth, the changes of day and night, the renewing seasons, all speak to man of His Creator’s love.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 17.

4. What position does man occupy in the plan of salvation? 1 Corinthians 4:1.

“In commissioning His disciples to go ‘into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,’ Christ assigned to men the work of extending the knowledge of His grace. But while some go forth to preach, He calls upon others to answer His claims upon them for offerings, with which to support His cause in the earth. He has placed means in the hands of men, that His divine gifts may flow through human channels in doing the work appointed us in saving our fellowmen. This is one of God’s ways of exalting man. It is just the work that man needs; for it will stir the deepest sympathies of his heart, and call into exercise the highest capabilities of the mind.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 15.

5. What two treasures are entrusted to the steward of God’s property? 1 Corinthians 4:1; Proverbs 3:9, 10.

“But instead of this He has made man His steward, entrusting him with means, not to be hoarded, but to be used in benefiting others. He thus makes man the medium through which to distribute His blessings on earth. God planned the system of beneficence, in order that man might become like His Creator, benevolent and unselfish in character, and finally be a partaker with Christ of the eternal, glorious reward.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 15.

6. How are we to administer the talents that are entrusted to us? Proverbs 11:24, 25.

“The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven. Christ’s self-sacrificing love is revealed upon the cross. That man might be saved. He gave all that He had, and then gave Himself. The cross of Christ appeals to the benevolence of every follower of the blessed Saviour. The principle here illustrated is to give, give. This, carried out in actual benevolence and good works, is the true fruit of the Christian life. The principle of worldlings is to get, get, and thus they expect to secure happiness; but carried out in all its bearings, the fruit is misery and death.”  
–*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 14.

7. What inspiring example of generosity did Israel provide in this respect? Exodus 36:5-7.
8. What are some of the blessings that God’s people have been given in trust? Highlight those listed below.

**“We are sustained every moment by God’s care, and upheld by His power.”**

“We are sustained every moment by God’s care, and upheld by His power. He spreads our tables with food. He gives us peaceful and refreshing sleep. Weekly He brings to us the Sabbath, that we may rest from our temporal labors, and worship Him in His own house. He has given us His word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In its sacred pages we find the counsels of wisdom; and as oft as we lift our hearts to Him in penitence and faith, He grants us the blessings of His grace. Above all else is the infinite gift of God’s dear Son, through whom flow all other blessings for this life and for the life to come.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 18.

9. With what spirit are faithful stewards surrounded? 2 Corinthians 8:9.

“Here is the apostle’s mighty argument. It is not the commandment of Paul, but of the Lord Jesus Christ....

“How great was the gift of God to man, and how like our God to make it! With a liberality that can never be exceeded He gave, that He might save the rebellious sons of men and bring them to see His purpose and discern His love. Will you, by your gifts and offerings, show that you think nothing too good for Him who ‘gave His only-begotten Son’?

“The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven. The spirit of selfishness is the spirit of Satan.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 19.

## Thought questions

1. How would you define a steward? How does the term as it is understood today compare with that presented in the Bible?
2. What difference do you see between a servant, a laborer, and a steward?
3. How do you think of yourself—as a servant or a steward of God?



1. How did Jesus present the responsibility of stewardship? Matthew 25:15.

**“A wise use of the littles will bring a wonderful increase.”**

“Let no one trifle with his responsibilities. If you are not trading upon dollars, but only upon cents, remember that the blessing of God rests upon unwearied diligence. He does not despise the day of small things. A wise use of the littles will bring a wonderful increase. One talent wisely used will bring two to God. Interest is expected in proportion to the entrusted capital. God accepts according to what a man hath, and not according to what he hath not.” –Counsels on Stewardship, p. 48.

2. What resources does the Lord Jesus Christ place under His stewards' care? Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-11; Ephesians 4:7, 8.

“The talents that Christ entrusts to His church represent especially the gifts and blessings imparted by the Holy Spirit....

“The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellowmen.” –*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 327, 328.

3. What is required first of a steward in relation to the talents entrusted to him? Matthew 25:27.

“The talents, however few, are to be put to use. The question that most concerns us is not, How much have I received? but, What am I doing with that which I have? The development of all our powers is the first duty we owe to God and our fellowmen. No one who is not

growing daily in capability and usefulness is fulfilling the purpose of life. In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable.”  
–*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 329, 330.

4. For what purpose have the gifts of the Spirit been bestowed upon the members of Christ’s body, the church? Ephesians 4:7, 8, 16-19.

“We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin.”

“God will accept only those who are determined to aim high. He places every human agent under obligation to do his best. Moral perfection is required of all. Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrongdoing. We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin. All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole, and everyone who receives Christ as a personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 330.

5. How do the two great commandments guide the use of every resource that is given to man for use in Christ’s service? Mark 12:30, 31.

“God requires the training of the mental faculties. He designs that His servants shall possess more intelligence and clearer discernment than the worldling, and He is displeased with those who are too careless or too indolent to become efficient, well-informed workers. The Lord bids us to love Him with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and with all the mind. This lays upon us the obligation of developing the intellect to its fullest capacity, that with all the mind we may know and love our Creator....

“The power of speech is a talent that should be diligently cultivated. Of all the gifts we have received from God, none is capable of being a greater blessing than this....

“Every soul is surrounded by an atmosphere of its own....

“This is a responsibility from which we cannot free ourselves. Our words, our acts, our dress, our deportment, even the expression of the countenance, has an influence....

“Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time....

“Health is a blessing of which few appreciate the value; yet upon it the efficiency of our mental and physical powers largely depends. Our impulses and passions have their seat in the body, and it must be kept in the best condition physically and under the most spiritual influences in order that our talents may be put to the highest use....

“The Lord holds us guilty when by our injurious habits we thus deprive the world of good....

“God also entrusts men with means....

“Our money has not been given us that we might honor and glorify ourselves. As faithful stewards we are to use it for the honor and glory of God....

“Kindly affections, generous impulses, and quick apprehension of spiritual things are precious talents, and lay their possessor under a weighty responsibility. All are to be used in God’s service.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 333, 335, 339, 342, 346, 347, 351, 352.

## 6. When can these talents do the most good? John 5:30.

“God desires that His workers in every line shall look to Him as the Giver of all they possess....

“God has proclaimed the principles on which alone this cooperation is possible. His glory must be the motive of all who are laborers together with Him. All our work is to be done from love to God and in accordance with His will....

“But God will not accept the greatest talents or the most splendid service unless self is laid upon the altar, a living, consuming sacrifice. The root must be holy, else there can be no fruit acceptable unto God.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 349, 350.

## 7. What goal should always be kept in view? Matthew 6:33.

“Let a living faith run like threads of gold through the performance of even the smallest duties. Then all the daily work will promote Christian growth. There will be a continual looking unto Jesus. Love for Him will give vital force to everything that is undertaken. Thus through the right use of our talents, we may link ourselves by a golden chain to the higher world. This is true sanctification; for sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 360.

**“The root must be holy, else there can be no fruit acceptable unto God.”**

8. When one's God-given resources are not properly used, what can be expected? Luke 12:48.

"We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have the ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. The unused capabilities are as much brought into account as those that are improved. For all that we might become through the right use of our talents God holds us responsible. We shall be judged according to what we ought to have done, but did not accomplish because we did not use our powers to glorify God. Even if we do not lose our souls, we shall realize in eternity the result of our unused talents. For all the knowledge and ability that we might have gained and did not, there will be an eternal loss." *—Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 363.

### Thought questions

1. Make a list of your personal resources, determining which ones you are "putting out to the exchangers," and which you are not.
2. Into what two general categories can you separate all your resources?
3. Is a talent developed to its full potential when it is first placed under the steward's management? What do you think you should do with the gifts God has entrusted to you?



1. What is everyone responsible for? Luke 16:10.

“All of us, as beings blessed of God with reasoning powers, with intellect and judgment, should acknowledge our accountability to God. The life He has given us is a sacred responsibility, and no moment of it is to be trifled with; for we shall have to meet it again in the record of the judgment. In the books of heaven our lives are as accurately traced as in the picture on the plate of the photographer. Not only are we held accountable for what we have done, but for what we have left undone. We are held to account for our undeveloped characters, our unimproved opportunities.” –(*Review and Herald*, September 22, 1891) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 987.

**“God gives to everyone sufficient light and grace to do the work He has given him to do.”**

“Man’s responsibilities are proportionate to his opportunities and privileges. God gives to everyone sufficient light and grace to do the work He has given him to do.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 265.

2. Why are many Christians unsuccessful in their spiritual growth and development? Matthew 20:6, 7; Proverbs 20:4.

“There are many poor creatures, now miserable, disappointed, and degraded, a curse to all around them, who might have been useful and happy men had they but improved their opportunities. Many youth waste the precious hours of life in idle daydreaming. Such persons have not much force of character or strength of principle. Many drift about, the sport of every changing circumstance. They are ever looking to others for sympathy, vainly depending upon others for happiness. All who pursue this course will wreck their hopes, both for this life and the life to come.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 654, 655.

3. What causes many golden opportunities to slip away, never to return? Hebrews 4:7.

"The interests of Christ's kingdom call for diligence and faithfulness in as much greater degree as spiritual and eternal things are of more importance than temporal things. There must be no feeble working, no sluggish, tardy action, for this would imperil our own souls and the souls of others....

"What general would undertake the command of an army while the officers under him refused to obey until they had satisfied themselves that his command was a reasonable one? Such a course would mean loss to the entire army. It would weaken the hands of the soldiers. The question would arise in their minds, Is there not a better way? But even though there be a better way, the orders must be obeyed, or defeat and disaster would result. A moment's delay, and the advantage that would have been gained is lost.

"Every good soldier is implicit and prompt in the obedience he renders to his captain. The will of the commander is to be the will of the soldier. Sometimes the soldier may be surprised at the command given, but he is not to stop to inquire the reason for it. When the order of the captain crosses the wishes of the soldier, he is not to hesitate and complain, saying, I see no consistency in these plans. He must not frame excuses and leave his work undone. Such soldiers would not be accepted as fitted to engage in earthly conflicts, and much more will they not be accepted in Christ's army. When Christ commands, His soldiers must obey without hesitation. They must be faithful soldiers, or He cannot accept them. Freedom of choice is given to every soul, but after a man has enlisted, he is required to be as true as steel, come life or come death." *—Evangelism*, pp. 647, 648.

**"Freedom of choice is given to every soul, but after a man has enlisted, he is required to be as true as steel, come life or come death."**

4. What prospect is before the church if it fails to use its present opportunities?

"The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith." *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 463.

"It often happens that circumstances arise which demand prompt action. And sometimes precious opportunities have been lost because of delay." *—Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 497.

5. What opportunity does the money which we possess give us? Mark 10:21.

“Christ would have the young man understand that He required nothing of him more than to follow the example that He Himself, the Lord of heaven, had set. He left His riches and glory, and became poor, that man, through His poverty, might be made rich; and for the sake of these riches, He requires man to yield earthly wealth, honor, and pleasure.... How did he receive the words of Christ? Was he rejoiced that he could secure the heavenly treasure? Oh, no! ‘He went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.’ To him riches were honor and power; and the great amount of his treasure made such a disposal of it seem almost an impossibility.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 211.

6. Where should we look for good opportunities? Ecclesiastes 9:10.

“Wherever we may be, Christ bids us take up the duty that presents itself. If this is in the home, take hold willingly and earnestly to make home a pleasant place. If you are a mother, train your children for Christ. This is as verily a work for God as is that of the minister in the pulpit. If your duty is in the kitchen, seek to be a perfect cook.... If it is your work to till the soil or to engage in any other trade or occupation, make a success of the present duty. Put your mind on what you are doing. In all your work represent Christ. Do as He would do in your place.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 359, 360.

7. What are we as God’s last people to do? 1 Peter 3:15; Deuteronomy 6:7.

“God will surely help those who seek Him for wisdom. We are not to wait until opportunities come to us; we are to seek for opportunities, and we are to be ready always to give a reason for the hope that is in us. If the worker keeps his heart uplifted in prayer. God will help him to speak the right word at the right time.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 120.

“We expect no great opportunity will meet us on the road, but by prompt and vigorous action we must seize the opportunities, make opportunities and master difficulties.” –*Evangelism*, p. 647.

8. Of what may everyone be assured? Matthew 25:14.

“When the Lord takes account of His servants, the return from every talent will be scrutinized. The work done reveals the character of the worker.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 360.

"No one need wait until called to some distant field before beginning to help others. Wherever you are, you can begin at once. Opportunities are within the reach of everyone. Take up the work for which you are held responsible, the work that should be done in your home and in your neighborhood. Wait not for others to urge you to action. In the fear of God go forward without delay, bearing in mind your individual responsibility to Him who gave His life for you." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 62.

## Thought questions

1. What important characteristic does every opportunity have?
2. Think of some opportunity that has come to you. Did you take it? Did you let it pass? What was the result?
3. What connection is there between opportunity, courage, and faith?



1. What does the earliest mention of tithing in the Bible show? Genesis 14:19, 20.

“The tithing system reaches back beyond the days of Moses. Men were required to offer to God gifts for religious purposes before the definite system was given to Moses, even as far back as the days of Adam. In complying with God’s requirements, they were to manifest in offerings their appreciation of His mercies and blessings to them. This was continued through successive generations, and was carried out by Abraham, who gave tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. The same principle existed in the days of Job. Jacob, when at Bethel, an exile and penniless wanderer, lay down at night, solitary and alone, with a rock for his pillow, and there promised the Lord: ‘Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee.’ God does not compel men to give. All that they give must be voluntary. He will not have His treasury replenished with unwilling offerings.”  
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 393.

2. On what was the New Testament support of the gospel work based? 1 Corinthians 9:11-14.

“The apostle here referred to the Lord’s plan for the maintenance of the priests who ministered in the temple. Those who were set apart to this holy office were supported by their brethren, to whom they ministered spiritual blessings. ‘Verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law.’ Hebrews 7:5.

“It was to this plan for the support of the ministry that Paul referred when he said, ‘Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.’ And later, in writing to Timothy, the apostle said, ‘The laborer is worthy of his reward.’ 1 Timothy 5:18.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 336.

3. What did God declare the tithe to be? Leviticus 27:30.

“A tithe of all our increase is the Lord’s. He has reserved it to Himself, to be employed for religious purposes. It is holy. Nothing less than this has He accepted in any dispensation. A neglect or postponement of this duty, will provoke the divine displeasure. If all professed Christians would faithfully bring their tithes to God, His treasury would be full.”  
–*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 67.

4. What was promised to those who paid a faithful tithe? Malachi 3:7-11.

“The special system of tithing was founded upon a principle which is as enduring as the law of God. This system of tithing was a blessing to the Jews, else God would not have given it them. So also will it be a blessing to those who carry it out to the end of time.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 67.

5. What portion of His people’s income did the Lord reserve for Himself? Leviticus 27:30.

“Of all our income we should make the first appropriation to God.”

“Of all our income we should make the first appropriation to God. In the system of beneficence enjoined upon the Jews they were required either to bring to the Lord the first fruits of all His gifts, whether in the increase of their flocks or herds, or in the produce of their fields, orchards, or vineyards, or they were to redeem it by substituting an equivalent.... If the law required tithes and offerings thousands of years ago, how much more essential are they now! If the rich and poor were to give a sum proportionate to their property in the Jewish economy, it is doubly essential now.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 474.

6. How does this system equalize the giving of both rich and poor in terms of responsibilities and blessings? 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

“In the Bible system of tithes and offerings the amounts paid by different persons will of course vary greatly, since they are proportioned to the income. With the poor man, the tithe will be a comparatively small sum, and his gifts will be according to his ability. But it is not the greatness of the gift that makes the offering acceptable to God; it is the purpose of the heart, the spirit of gratitude and love that it expresses. Let not the poor feel that their gifts are so small as to be unworthy of notice. Let them give according to their ability, feeling that they are servants of God, and that He will accept their offering.”  
–*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 73, 74.

"Many have pitied the lot of the Israel of God in being compelled to give systematically, besides making liberal offerings yearly. An all-wise God knew best what system of benevolence would be in accordance with His providence, and has given His people directions in regard to it. It has ever proved that nine tenths are worth more to them than ten tenths." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 546.

7. How difficult is the systematic paying of tithes and offerings when one has a clear view of what God has done for him? John 3:16.

"God's plan in the tithing system is beautiful in its simplicity and equality. All may take hold of it in faith and courage, for it is divine in its origin. In it are combined simplicity and utility, and it does not require depth of learning to understand and execute it. All may feel that they can act a part in carrying forward the precious work of salvation." –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 73.

"I speak of the tithing system, yet how meager it looks to my mind! How small the estimate! How vain the endeavor to measure with mathematical rules, time, money, and love against a love and sacrifice that is measureless and incomputable! Tithes for Christ! Oh, meager pittance, shameful recompense for that which cost so much!" –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 119.

8. What is required of every steward of God? 2 Corinthians 8:21.

**"No man who is dishonest with God or with his fellowmen can truly prosper."**

"Those who realize their dependence upon God, will feel that they must be honest with their fellowmen, and, above all, they must be honest with God, from whom come all the blessings of life. The evasion of the positive commands of God concerning tithes and offerings, is registered in the books of heaven as robbery toward Him.

"No man who is dishonest with God or with his fellowmen can truly prosper." –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 77.

9. What practical rule of systematic giving was established by the early Christian church? 1 Corinthians 16:2.

"The directions given by the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul in regard to gifts, present a principle that applies also to tithing: 'Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.' Parents and children are here included. Not only the rich, but the poor, are addressed....

“And what more appropriate time could be chosen for setting aside the tithe and presenting our offerings to God? On the Sabbath we have thought upon His goodness. We have beheld His work in creation as an evidence of His power in redemption. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness for His great love. And now, before the toil of a week begins, we return to Him His own, and with it an offering to testify our gratitude.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 80.

## Thought questions

1. Should tithe paying be regarded as a kind of insurance policy that guarantees blessings?
2. How fair is God's plan for sustaining His church?
3. How do you calculate your tithes and offerings?
4. How do you consider your offerings in relation to church finance?



1. What condition that now exists in the world was prevalent in the time of Christ? James 5:1-6.

“Christ’s coming was at a time of intense worldliness. Men were subordinating the eternal to the temporal, the claims of the future to the affairs of the present. They were mistaking phantoms for realities, and realities for phantoms. They did not by faith behold the unseen world. Satan presented before them the things of this life as all-attractive and all-absorbing, and they gave heed to his temptations.”  
–*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 366.

2. What parable of Jesus shows the importance of the use of money? Luke 16:1-9.

“The rich man had left all his possessions in the hands of his servant; but the servant was unfaithful, and the master was convinced that he was being systematically robbed. He determined to retain him no longer in his service, and he called for an investigation of his accounts....

“With the prospect of discharge before him, the steward saw three paths open to his choice. He must labor, beg, or starve. And he said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship; I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.’...

“This unfaithful servant made others share with him in his dishonesty. He defrauded his master to advantage them, and by accepting this advantage they placed themselves under obligation to receive him as a friend into their homes.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 366, 367.

3. What comparison did He make between faithfulness in worldly business and in those things that have eternal value? Luke 16:9, 11.

“Christ did not commend the unjust steward, but He made use of a well-known occurrence to illustrate the lesson He desired to teach. ‘Make to yourselves friends by means of the mammon of unrighteousness,’ He said, ‘that when it shall fail, they may receive you into the eternal tabernacles.’” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 367.

4. What did He clearly state? Luke 16:13.
5. What does it mean to make friends with the mammon of unrighteousness? Luke 16:9.

“To the unfaithful steward his lord’s goods had been entrusted for benevolent purposes; but he had used them for himself....

“The servant in the parable had made no provision for the future. The goods entrusted to him for the benefit of others he had used for himself; but he had thought only of the present. When the stewardship should be taken from him, he would have nothing to call his own. But his master’s goods were still in his hands, and he determined to use them so as to secure himself against future want. To accomplish this he must work on a new plan. Instead of gathering for himself, he must impart to others. Thus he might secure friends, who, when he should be cast out, would receive him. So with the Pharisees. The stewardship was soon to be taken from them, and they were called upon to provide for the future. Only by seeking the good of others could they benefit themselves. Only by imparting God’s gifts in the present life could they provide for eternity.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 367, 369, 370.

6. What attitude toward money did the apostle Paul warn against? 1 Timothy 6:10.

“The Bible condemns no man for being rich, if he has acquired his riches honestly. Not money, but the love of money, is the root of all evil. It is God who gives man power to get wealth; and in the hands of him who acts as God’s steward, using his means unselfishly, wealth is a blessing, both to its possessor and to the world.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 212.

7. How can it be seen that what Jesus said about rich people is true? Mark 10:23-25.

“Multitudes who are prosperous in the world, and who never stoop to the common forms of vice, are yet brought to destruction through the love of riches. The cup most difficult to carry is not the cup that is empty, but the cup that is full to the brim. It is this that needs to be most carefully balanced. Affliction and adversity bring disappointment and sorrow; but it is prosperity that is most dangerous to spiritual life.”  
—*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 211, 212.

8. What do you think of Jesus’ estimate of Mary’s gift? Mark 14:6-9.

“There are gifts that we rightly proportion to the character and necessities of the ones upon whom we bestow them. Not many of the poor would appreciate Mary’s offering, or our Lord’s sacrifice of Himself, which gift was the highest that could be given. That ointment was a symbol of the overflowing heart of the giver. It was an outward demonstration of a love fed by heavenly streams until it overflowed. And that ointment of Mary, which the disciples called waste, is repeating itself a thousand times in the susceptible hearts of others....

“The supposed prodigality of Mary is an illustration of the methods of God in the plan of salvation;...”

“To human reasoning the whole plan of salvation is a waste of mercies and resources. They are provided to accomplish the restoration of the moral image of God in man. The atonement is abundantly able to secure to all who will receive it, mansions in heaven. The supposed prodigality of Mary is an illustration of the methods of God in the plan of salvation; for nature and grace, related to each other, manifest the ennobling fullness of the Source from which they flow.” —(Manuscript 28, 1897) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1101.

9. What characteristics of God put money in its proper place? Jeremiah 9:23, 24.

### Thought questions

1. How can money be wasted? Think of things either wanted or needed, useful or useless. What do you think about giving gifts to those who do not need them?
2. What opportunities do you have available to you for earning money? How would you spend what you earn?
3. Only when can money be a blessing? On what does this depend?

An investment is an outlay of means for the purpose of gaining income or profit or to purchase something of lasting value.

1. Is every way of acquiring money acceptable to God? Proverbs 28:8; 1 Timothy 6:9, 10.

“God will accept nothing in the line of gain that is brought into His treasury through selfish transactions. Every act in connection with His work is to bear divine inspection. Every sharp transaction, every attempt to take advantage of a man who is under pressure of circumstances, every plan to purchase his land or property for a sum beneath its value, will not be acceptable to God, even though the money gained is made an offering to His cause.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 145.

2. What does every Christian possess that he may invest? Matthew 25:15.

“God Himself originates the plans for the advancement of His work, and He has provided His people with a surplus of means, that when He calls for help, they may cheerfully respond. If they will be faithful in bringing to His treasury the means He lent them, His work will make rapid advancement. Many souls will be won to the truth, and the day of Christ’s coming will be hastened....

“The Lord does not propose to come to this world, and lay down gold and silver for the advancement of His work. He supplies men with resources, that by their gifts and offerings they may keep His work advancing. The one purpose above all others for which God’s gifts should be used is the sustaining of workers in the harvest field. And if men will become channels through which heaven’s blessing can flow to others, the Lord will keep the channel supplied. It is not returning to the Lord His own that makes men poor; withholding tends to poverty....” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 45, 36.

3. What is the prince of this world constantly tempting God's people to do? Luke 12:18; Psalm 39:6.

"The temptation may come to you to invest your money in land. Perhaps your friends will advise you to do this. But is there not a better way of investing your means? Have you not been bought with a price? Has not your money been entrusted to you to be traded upon for Him? Can you not see that He wants you to use your means in helping to build meeting-houses, in helping to establish sanitariums, where the sick shall receive physical and spiritual healing, and in helping to start schools, in which the youth shall be trained for service, that workers may be sent to all parts of the world?..."

"I was shown that it is a dangerous experiment for our people to engage in speculation. They thereby place themselves on the enemy's ground, subject to great temptations, disappointments, trials and losses. Then comes a feverish unrest, a longing desire to obtain means more rapidly than present circumstances will admit. Their surroundings are accordingly changed, in hope of making more money. But frequently their expectations are not realized, and they become discouraged and go backward rather than forward." —*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 45, 237.

4. How does Jesus consider riches? Mark 10:25.

"Here the power of wealth is seen. The influence of the love of money over the human mind is almost paralyzing. Riches infatuate, and cause many who possess them to act as though they were bereft of reason. The more they have of this world, the more they desire. Their fears of coming to want increase with their riches. They have a disposition to hoard up means for the future. They are close and selfish, fearing that God will not provide for them. This class are indeed poor toward God. As their riches have accumulated, they have put their trust in them, and have lost faith in God and His promises.

**"As their riches have accumulated, they have put their trust in them, and have lost faith in God and His promises."**

"The faithful, trusting poor man becomes rich toward God by judiciously using the little he has in blessing others with his means. He feels that his neighbor has claims upon him that he cannot disregard and yet obey the command of God, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' He considers the salvation of his fellowmen of greater importance than all the gold and silver the world contains." —*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 150, 151.

5. What shows the value a person places on something? Matthew 6:21.

“Men who profess the truth will engage in worldly enterprises, and invest much, and run great risks. If they lose nearly all they possess, they are deeply aggrieved, because they feel the inconvenience of the losses they have sustained; yet they do not feel that their unwise course has deprived the cause of God of means, and that as His stewards they must render an account for this squandering of the Lord’s money.... Eternal things are not appreciated. You are not a rich man, yet your heart may be just as much placed upon the little you have, and you may cling to it just as closely as the millionaire to his treasures. Small, very small will be the profits realized by you in your investments in worldly enterprises; while on the other hand, if you invest in the cause of God, make that cause a part of you, and love it as you love yourself, and are willing to sacrifice for its advancement, showing your confidence and faith in its ultimate triumph, you will reap a precious harvest, if not in this life, in the better life than this. You will reap an eternal reward, which is of as much higher value than any common, earthly gains as the immortal is higher than the perishable.”  
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 691, 692.

6. What Investment opportunities are both safe and profitable? Matthew 19:21; Luke 12:33, 34.

“Those who really feel an interest in the cause of God, . . . will find it a sure and safe investment.”

“Those who really feel an interest in the cause of God, and are willing to venture something for its advancement, will find it a sure and safe investment. Some will have a hundredfold in this life, and in the world to come life everlasting. But all will not receive their hundredfold in this life, because they cannot bear it. If entrusted with much, they would become unwise stewards. The Lord withholds it for their good; but their treasure in heaven will be secure. How much better is such an investment as this!” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 232, 233.

7. Who can invest in God’s cause? Luke 12:42, 43.

“Every church member should cherish a spirit of sacrifice. In every home there should be taught lessons of self-denial. Fathers and mothers, teach your children to economize. Encourage them to save their pennies for missionary work. Christ is our example. For our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich....

“To those who love God sincerely and have means, I am bidden to say: Now is the time for you to invest your means in sustaining the work of the Lord. Now is the time to uphold the hands of the ministers in their self-denying efforts to save perishing souls....

“Let none withhold their mites, and let those who have much rejoice that they can lay up in heaven a treasure that faileth not.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, pp. 130, 131.

8. What kind of investments are we counseled against? Haggai 1:4-7.

“In the night season I was instructed to tell God’s people that it is not according to His will that those who believe in His near coming should invest their means in mining stock. This would be burying our Lord’s talent in the earth....

“I am bidden to say that this is a device of the enemy to consume or to tie up means that is greatly needed to carry on the work of God. It is a snare of the last days, to involve God’s people in loss of their Lord’s entrusted capital, that should be used wisely in the work of winning souls.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 242, 243.

9. Is life insurance a good investment? Matthew 6:33, 34.

“Life insurance is a worldly policy which leads our brethren who engage in it to depart from the simplicity and purity of the gospel. Every such departure weakens our faith and lessens our spirituality....

“But few will realize any returns from life insurance, and without God’s blessing even these will prove an injury instead of a benefit. Those whom God has made His stewards have no right to place in the enemy’s ranks the means which He has entrusted to them to use in His cause.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 550.

## Thought questions

1. What do you think is the best time to invest your money—when you are alive, or at death through your will?
2. What can you think of as a good return on an investment of money?
3. If someone puts his money in a certain enterprise, what does this show?

1. For what will every Christian be held responsible? Ecclesiastes 5:19; 12:14.

**“The duty to help in the advancement of truth does not rest only upon the wealthy.”**

“The duty to help in the advancement of truth does not rest only upon the wealthy. All have a part to act. The man who has employed his time and strength to accumulate property is accountable for the disposition he makes of that property. If one has health and strength, that is his capital, and he must make a right use of it. If he spends hours in idleness and needless visiting and talking, he is slothful in business, which God’s word forbids. Such have a work to do to provide for their own families, and then lay by them in store for charitable purposes as God has prospered them.

“We are not placed in this world merely to care for ourselves, but we are required to aid in the great work of salvation, thus imitating the self-denying, self-sacrificing useful life of Christ.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 324, 325.

2. What will happen to the possessions that one is holding when Jesus comes? James 5:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10, 11.
3. What should we therefore be willing to do? Matthew 13:46; 1 Timothy 6:7.

“The Lord would have His followers dispense their means while they can do it themselves. Some may inquire, ‘Must we actually dispossess ourselves of everything which we call our own?’ We may not be required to do this now; but we must be willing to do so for Christ’s sake. We must acknowledge that our possessions are absolutely His, by using of them freely whenever means is needed to advance His cause. Some close their ears to the calls made for money to be used in sending missionaries to foreign countries, and in publishing the truth and scattering it like autumn leaves all over the world.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 324.

4. In view of the time of trouble to come upon the world, according to Daniel 2:1, what important counsel is given to God's people?

"Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth. I was shown that it is the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God through sacrifice. If they have their property on the altar, and earnestly inquire of God for duty, He will teach them when to dispose of these things. Then they will be free in the time of trouble, and have no clogs to weigh them down.

"I saw that if any held on to their property, and did not inquire of the Lord as to their duty. He would not make duty known, and they would be permitted to keep their property, and in the time of trouble it would come up before them like a mountain to crush them, and they would try to dispose of it, but would not be able. I heard some mourn like this: The cause was languishing, God's people were starving for the truth, and we made no effort to supply the lack; now our property is useless. O that we had let it go, and laid up treasure in heaven!"  
—*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 59, 60.

5. How can one determine when to dispose of his property? Isaiah 30:21.

“... He would teach them, in a time of need, when to sell and how much to sell.”

"I saw that a sacrifice did not increase, but it decreased and was consumed. I also saw that God had not required all of His people to dispose of their property at the same time, but if they desired to be taught, He would teach them, in a time of need, when to sell and how much to sell. Some have been required to dispose of their property in times past to sustain the advent cause, while others have been permitted to keep theirs until a time of need. Then, as the cause needs it, their duty is to sell." —*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 60.

6. What instruction is very valuable now, in the last times? Matthew 6:33; Philippians 3:20.

"It is now that our brethren should be cutting down their possessions instead of increasing them. We are about to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Then let us not be dwellers upon the earth, but be getting things into as compact a compass as possible." —*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 59.

7. In what terrible situation will those who have held on to possessions be when the Sunday law is executed and enforced? Revelation 13:17.

“The time is coming when we cannot sell at any price. The decree will soon go forth prohibiting men to buy or sell of any man save he that hath the mark of the beast.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 59.

8. What is to be the motive of those who sell some of their property to be donated to God’s cause? Ezra 7:16; Proverbs 11:25.

“I saw that at present God does not call for the houses His people need to live in, unless expensive houses are exchanged for cheaper ones. But if those who have an abundance do not hear His voice, cut loose from the world, and dispose of a portion of their property and lands, and sacrifice for God, He will pass them by, and call for those who are willing to do anything for Jesus, even to sell their homes to meet the wants of the cause. God will have freewill offerings. Those who give must esteem it a privilege to do so.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 177.

**“Those who give must esteem it a privilege to do so.”**

9. When can we expect our property and enterprises to be increased and prospered? Isaiah 58:6-8, 10, 11; Malachi 3:10, 11.

“God desires us to choose the heavenly in place of the earthly. He opens before us the possibilities of a heavenly investment...”

“Then let your property go beforehand to heaven. Lay up your treasures beside the throne of God. Make sure your title to the unsearchable riches of Christ. ‘Make to yourselves friends by means of the mammon of unrighteousness, that when it shall fail, they may receive you into the eternal tabernacles.’” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 374, 375.

## Thought questions

1. What thought should be foremost in one’s heart and mind when trying to obtain property?
2. How should you manage property that you have received through inheritance, insurance, or other windfall?

1. What talent is part of every person's stewardship? 2 Timothy 3:14; Proverbs 1:2-6.

“Young men should not enter upon the work of explaining the Scriptures and lecturing upon the prophecies, when they do not have a knowledge of the important Bible truths they try to explain to others. They may be deficient in the common branches of education, and therefore fail to do the amount of good they could do if they had had the advantages of a good school. Ignorance will not increase the humility or spirituality of any professed follower of Christ. The truths of the divine word can be best appreciated by an intellectual Christian. Christ can best be glorified by those who serve Him intelligently. The great object of education is to enable us to use the powers which God has given us in such a manner as will best represent the religion of the Bible and promote the glory of God.” –*Evangelism*, p. 476.

2. What education is of the greatest value? Proverbs 4:7-9; 2:1-7.

**“No education can be called higher education unless it bears the similitude of heaven...”**

“No education can be called higher education unless it bears the similitude of heaven, unless it leads young men and young women to be Christlike, and fits them to stand at the head of their families in the place of God. If, during his school life, a young man has failed to gain a knowledge of Greek and Latin and the sentiments contained in the works of infidel authors, he has not sustained much loss. If Jesus Christ had deemed this kind of education essential, would He not have given it to His disciples, whom He was educating to do the greatest work ever committed to mortals, to represent Him in the world? But, instead, He placed sacred truth in their hands, to be given to the world in its simplicity.” –*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 467, 468.

3. To a Christian, what is the purpose of education? 2 Timothy 2:15.

**“It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.”**

“Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come....”

“Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached.”  
—*Education*, pp. 13, 18.

4. What part of life should not be neglected by pursuing a course of education? 1 Corinthians 4:12.

“In acquiring an education, many students would gain a most valuable training if they would become self-sustaining. Instead of incurring debts, or depending on the self-denial of their parents, let young men and young women depend upon themselves. They will thus learn the value of money, the value of time, strength, and opportunities, and will be under far less temptation to indulge idle and spendthrift habits. The lessons of economy, industry, self-denial, practical business management, and steadfastness of purpose, thus mastered, would prove a most important part of their equipment for the battle of life. And the lesson of self-help learned by the student would go far toward preserving institutions of learning from the burden of debt under which so many schools have struggled, and which has done so much toward crippling their usefulness.” —*Education*, p. 221.

5. What value does education have for God’s cause? Isaiah 11:1-3; Colossians 1:9, 10.

“The youth have faculties that, with proper cultivation, would qualify them for almost any position of trust. If they had made it their object in obtaining an education to so exercise and develop the powers that God has given them that they might be useful and prove a blessing to others, their minds would not be dwarfed to an inferior standard. They would show depth of thought and firmness of principle, and would command influence and respect. They might have an elevating influence upon others, which would lead souls to see and acknowledge the power of an intelligent Christian life.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 367.

6. What parts of our being are affected by the education we receive? 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

“In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 330.

7. What knowledge are we not to seek, especially in the last days of the world’s history? Colossians 2:8.

“Then let no more time be lost in dwelling on the many things which are not essential and which have no bearing upon the present necessities of God’s people. Let no more time be lost in exalting men who know not the truth, ‘for the time is at hand.’ There is no time now to fill the mind with theories of what is popularly called ‘higher education.’ The time devoted to that which does not tend to assimilate the soul to the likeness of Christ is so much time lost for eternity. This we cannot afford, for every moment is freighted with eternal interests.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 130.

8. To what task of the church can true education contribute? Matthew 5:14; 28:19, 20; 24:14.

**“The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul.”**

“To many, education means a knowledge of books; but ‘the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.’ The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul. The first and most precious knowledge is the knowledge of Christ.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 322.

9. What power is at work both in learning and in the practice of truth? John 16:13.

“The preaching of the word is of no avail without the presence and aid of the Holy Spirit; for this Spirit is the only effectual Teacher of divine truth. Only when the truth is accompanied to the heart by the Spirit, will it quicken the conscience or transform the life.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 284.

## Thought questions

1. How does worldly society consider blue collar workers as opposed to white collar workers? What Scriptural principles apply in this?
2. What have you learned about true knowledge in this lesson?
3. List some ways to acquire good education.



1. What was Peter's desire for the church? 2 Peter 1:12.

"We believe without a doubt that Christ is soon coming. This is not a fable to us; it is a reality. We have no doubt, neither have we had a doubt for years, that the doctrines we hold today are present truth, and that we are nearing the judgment. We are preparing to meet Him who, escorted by a retinue of holy angels, is to appear in the clouds of heaven to give the faithful and the just the finishing touch of immortality." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 355.

2. What prophecy of Isaiah did Jesus claim as His mission? Isaiah 61:1.

"This world is a vast lazar house; but Christ came to heal the sick, to proclaim deliverance to the captives of Satan. He was in Himself health and strength. He imparted His life to the sick, the afflicted, those possessed of demons. He knew that many of those who petitioned Him for help had brought disease upon themselves, yet He did not refuse to heal them. And when virtue from Christ entered into these poor souls, they were convicted of sin, and many were healed of their spiritual disease as well as of their physical maladies." –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 466.

3. What does He expect of His followers? John 8:32; Matthew 5:14.

"The Holy Spirit has brought decidedly to your minds the important, vital truths for this time. Is this knowledge to be bound up in a napkin and hidden in the earth? No, no. It is to be put out to the exchangers. As man uses his talents, however small, with faithfulness, the Holy Spirit takes the things of God, and presents them anew to the mind. Through His Spirit God makes His word a vivifying power. It is quick and powerful, exerting a strong influence upon minds, not because of the learning or intelligence of the human agent, but because divine power is working with the human power. And it is to the divine power that all praise is to be given." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 55.

**"... It is to the  
divine power  
that all praise is  
to be given."**

4. What change of mind needs to happen for those who think one becomes a faithful steward by merely joining the church? Revelation 2:9, second part; Romans 9:6.

“Many of the members of our large churches are doing comparatively nothing. They might accomplish a good work if, instead of crowding together, they would scatter into places that have not yet been entered by the truth. Trees that are planted too thickly do not flourish. They are transplanted by the gardener, that they may have room to grow and not become dwarfed and sickly. The same rule would work well for our large churches. Many of the members are dying spiritually for want of this very work.... Transplanted, they would have room to grow strong and vigorous.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 244.

5. What do many professed Christians not understand? Romans 1:18; 2:19, 20.

“The reason that the Lord can do so little for those who are handling weighty truths is that so many hold these truths apart from their life. They hold them in unrighteousness. Their hands are not clean, their hearts are defiled with sin, and should the Lord work for them in the power of His Spirit corresponding with the magnitude of the truth which He has opened to the understanding, it would be as though the Lord sanctioned sin.” –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 81.

6. How did Christ illustrate what each Christian is to be and do? Matthew 5:15, 16.

“As Jesus taught the people. He made His lessons interesting and held the attention of His hearers by frequent illustrations from the scenes of nature about them. The people had come together while it was yet morning. The glorious sun, climbing higher and higher in the blue sky, was chasing away the shadows that lurked in the valleys and among the narrow defiles of the mountains. The glory of the eastern heavens had not yet faded out. The sunlight flooded the land with its splendor; the placid surface of the lake reflected the golden light and mirrored the rosy clouds of morning. Every bud and flower and leafy spray glistened with dewdrops. Nature smiled under the benediction of a new day, and the birds sang sweetly among the trees. The Saviour looked upon the company before Him, and then to the rising sun, and said to His disciples, ‘Ye are the light of the world.’ As the sun goes forth on its errand of love, dispelling the shadows of night

and awakening the world to life, so the followers of Christ are to go forth on their mission, diffusing the light of heaven upon those who are in the darkness of error and sin.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 38, 39.

“Christ does not bid His followers strive to shine. He says, Let your light shine. If you have received the grace of God, the light is in you. Remove the obstructions, and the Lord’s glory will be revealed. The light will shine forth to penetrate and dispel the darkness. You cannot help shining within the range of your influence.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 420.

7. How sure was the apostle Paul of the message of truth that he cherished and preached? Galatians 1:8.

“No one mind  
can do this work  
alone.”

“We are to present to our people a clear explanation of Revelation. We are to give them the word of God just as it is, with as few of our own explanations as possible. No one mind can do this work alone. Although we have in trust the grandest and most important truth ever presented to the world, we are only babes, as far as understanding truth in all its bearings is concerned. Christ is the Great Teacher, and that which He revealed to John, we are to tax our minds to understand and clearly to define. We are facing the most important issues that men have ever been called upon to meet.” –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 29.

8. What trait is most important in a steward? 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2.

“The present is a season of solemn privilege and sacred trust. If the servants of God keep faithfully the trust given to them, great will be their reward when the Master shall say, ‘Give an account of thy stewardship.’ The earnest toil, the unselfish work, the patient, persevering effort, will be abundantly rewarded. Jesus will say, Henceforth I call you not servants, but friends. The approval of the Master is not given because of the greatness of the work performed, but because of fidelity in all that has been done. It is not the results we attain, but the motives from which we act, that weigh with God. He prizes goodness and faithfulness above all else.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 267.

9. What responsibility did the apostle Paul carry? Romans 1:14.

“In what sense was Paul debtor both to the Jew and to the Greek? To him had been given the commission, as it is given to every disciple of Christ, ‘Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ In accepting Christ, Paul accepted this commission. He realized that upon him rested the obligation of laboring for all classes of men—for Jew and Gentile, learned and unlearned, for those occupying high positions and for those in the most lowly walks of life.” —(Letter 262, 1903) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1067.

## Thought questions

1. What relationship is there between one’s membership in the church and his stewardship?
2. What does it mean to hold the truth in unrighteousness?
3. How does one show that he realizes and accepts his stewardship of the truth?



1. How do all light and understanding come to God's people? Why is this impossible for the natural man? John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:14.

"The same Spirit that in His stead was sent to be the instructor of His first co-workers, Christ has commissioned to be the instructor of His co-workers today. 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world' (Matthew 28:20), is His promise.

"The presence of the same guide in educational work today will produce the same results as of old. This is the end to which true education tends; this is the work that God designs it to accomplish."  
 –*Education*, p. 96.

2. What other means are employed by the Spirit to give men light? Acts 8:29-31; Acts 19:1-5.

"God has not passed His people by, and chosen one solitary man here and another there as the only ones worthy to be entrusted with His truth. He does not give one man new light contrary to the established faith of the body. In every reform men have arisen making this claim. Paul warned the church in his day, 'Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.'...

"Let none be self-confident as though God had given them special light above their brethren....

**"... We should come with a humble heart to know for ourselves what is truth."**

"Brethren, we must sink the shaft deep in the mine of truth. You may question matters with yourselves and with one another, if you only do it in the right spirit; but too often self is large, and as soon as investigation begins, an unchristian spirit is manifested. This is just what Satan delights in, but we should come with a humble heart to know for ourselves what is truth." –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pp. 45, 41.

3. How should we deal with new light that comes to us? Acts 17:10, 11.

"We must not think, Well, we have all the truth, we understand the main pillars of our faith, and we may rest on this knowledge.' The truth is an advancing truth, and we must walk in the increasing light.'

"A brother asked, 'Sister White, do you think we must understand the truth for ourselves? Why can we not take the truths that others have gathered together, and believe them because they have investigated the subjects, and then we shall be free to go on without the taxing of the powers of the mind in the investigation of all these subjects? Do you not think that these men who have brought out the truth in the past were inspired of God?'

"I dare not say that they were not led of God, for Christ leads in all truth; but when it comes to inspiration in the fullest sense of the word, I answer, No. I believe that God has given them a work to do, but if they are not fully consecrated to God at all times, they will weave self and their peculiar traits of character into what they are doing, and will put their mold upon the work, and fashion men in religious experience after their own pattern. It is dangerous for us to make flesh our arm."  
—*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pp. 33, 34.

4. How should a Christian consider the light that he has already accepted?

"Many who read and even teach the Bible, do not comprehend the precious truth that they are teaching or studying....

"As we take up the study of God's word, we should do so with humble hearts. All selfishness, all love of originality, should be laid aside. Long-cherished opinions, must not be regarded as infallible.... Those who sincerely desire truth will not be reluctant to lay open their positions for investigation and criticism, and will not be annoyed if their opinions and ideas are crossed. This was the spirit cherished among us forty years ago [written in 1892]....

"We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed. As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Christ prayed." —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pp. 36, 37.

5. How should those who have accepted the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6 consider new light? Proverbs 4:18.

**"Those who sincerely desire truth will not be reluctant to lay open their positions for investigation and criticism..."**

“New light will ever be revealed on the word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness. Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the word of God. Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God.” –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 35.

6. What spirit of these last days may hinder the acceptance of new light? Revelation 3:17.

“Increasing light is to shine upon us;...”

“A spirit of Pharisaism has been coming in upon the people who claim to believe the truth for these last days. They are self-satisfied. They have said, ‘We have the truth. There is no more light for the people of God.’ But we are not safe when we take a position that we will not accept anything else than that upon which we have settled as truth.... Some have asked me if I thought there was any more light for the people of God. Our minds have become so narrow that we do not seem to understand that the Lord has a mighty work to do for us. Increasing light is to shine upon us; for the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pp. 34, 35.

7. What possibility should not be overlooked? Hebrews 5:12.

“I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth, know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others, who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested, they knew not their great ignorance.

“And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe, but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith, and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth.” –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pp. 39, 40.

8. Where should one's search for new light be directed? 2 Peter 1:19.

“Whatever may be man’s intellectual advancement, let him not for a moment think that there is no need of thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures for greater light. As a people we are called individually to be students of prophecy.” –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 41.

9. In considering new light, what should one always beware of? Colossians 2:8.

“One accepts one new and original idea which does not seem to conflict with the truth. He talks of it and dwells upon it until it seems to him to be clothed with beauty and importance, for Satan has power to give this false appearance. At last it becomes the all-absorbing theme, the one great point around which everything centers; and the truth is uprooted from the heart....

“Brethren, as an ambassador of Christ I warn you to beware of these side issues, whose tendency is to divert the mind from the truth. Error is never harmless. It never sanctifies, but always brings confusion and dissension. It is always dangerous. The enemy has great power over minds that are not thoroughly fortified by prayer and established in Bible truth.” –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pp. 46, 47.

## Thought questions

1. To what must new light be compared?
2. What channels does God use to impart light?
3. How can revelation be tested?
4. What should one do with new light?

1. With what does even the eternal God in heaven reckon? Exodus 9:5; Psalm 81:3; Daniel 11:29; Mark 1:15; Acts 1:7.

“Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent that He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time.”  
–*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 342.

2. What talent does God give to every person in equal measure? Ephesians 5:16.

**“The value of  
time is beyond  
computation.”**

“The value of time is beyond computation. Christ regarded every moment as precious, and it is thus that we should regard it. Life is too short to be trifled away. We have but a few days of probation in which to prepare for eternity. We have no time to waste, no time to devote to selfish pleasure, no time for the indulgence of sin. It is now that we are to form characters for the future, immortal life.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 342.

3. How is this talent to be improved? Proverbs 22:29; 2 Peter 3:14.

“We are admonished to redeem the time. But time squandered can never be recovered. We cannot call back even one moment. The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the most of that which remains, by being co-workers with God in His great plan of redemption.

“In him who does this, a transformation of character takes place.”  
–*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 342.

4. What twofold result will this have? Romans 13:11; Hosea 10:12.

“He becomes a son of God, a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. He is fitted to be the companion of the angels.

“Now is our time to labor for the salvation of our fellowmen.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 342, 343.

5. What should be cultivated in the use of time? Proverbs 6:6-11.

**“It is the duty of every Christian to acquire habits of order, thoroughness and dispatch.”**

“It is the duty of every Christian to acquire habits of order, thoroughness and dispatch. There is no excuse for slow bungling at work of any character. When one is always at work and the work is never done, it is because mind and heart are not put into the labor. The one who is slow and who works at a disadvantage should realize that there are faults to be corrected. He needs to exercise his mind in planning how to use the time so as to secure the best results. By tact and method, some will accomplish as much in five hours as others do in ten.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 344.

6. If a person wastes time when he works for an employer, what commandment is he breaking? Leviticus 19:11.

“Different qualifications are needed for different departments of the work. The carpenter is not fitted to work at the anvil, nor the blacksmith to use the plane. The merchant would be out of place beside the sickbed, and the doctor in the counting room. Those who become weary with the work which God has committed to them, and place themselves in positions where they cannot or will not work, will be accounted slothful servants. ‘To every man his work.’ Not one is excused.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 184.

7. What do you think is the meaning of the word “hireling,” used in Isaiah 16:14? Job 7:1, 2.

A hireling is someone who works only as long as his contract requires. He is unlikely to remain after that time. He is a clock watcher and goes through the motions without having his heart in the work. He counts the hours and the money that he will receive.

8. Can money substitute for God’s requirements in regard to the use of time? 1 Samuel 15:22.

“There are some who think that if they give money to the cause of Christ, this is all they are required to do; the precious time in which they might do personal service for Him passes unimproved. But it is the privilege and duty of all who have health and strength to render to God active service. All are to labor in winning souls to Christ. Donations of money cannot take the place of this.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 343.

9. What portions of our time often go unnoticed? John 6:12.

“Every moment is freighted with eternal consequences. We are to stand as minute men, ready for service at a moment’s notice. The opportunity that is now ours to speak to some needy soul the word of life may never offer again. God may say to that one, ‘This night thy soul shall be required of thee,’ and through our neglect he may not be ready. Luke 12:20. In the great judgment day, how shall we render our account to God?” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 343.

### Thought questions

1. What can one say about the phrase that is so frequently heard, “I have no time”? Is it correct?
2. What relationship is there between work and pleasure in your time schedule?
3. What does the saying, “Time is money,” mean?



1. How did the psalmist describe man's dependence on God? Psalm 145:14-20.

**"This world is but a little atom in the vast domain over which God presides..."**

"You are working in one part of His great moral vineyard, and He has told you that if any man lack wisdom, he is to ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not. This world is but a little atom in the vast domain over which God presides, and yet this little fallen world is more precious in His sight than the ninety and nine which went not astray from the fold. If we will make Him our trust, He will not leave us to become the sport of Satan's temptations. God would have every soul for whom Christ has died become a part of the vine, connected with the parent stock, drawing nourishment from it. Our dependence on God is absolute, and should keep us very humble; and because of our dependence on Him, our knowledge of Him should be greatly increased." —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 324.

2. What portion of our stewardship can we perform without God's help? John 15:5.

"The growth and perfection of the seed rests not with the husbandman. God alone can ripen the harvest. But man's cooperation is required. God's work for us demands the action of our mind, the exercise of our faith. We must seek His favors with the whole heart if the showers of grace are to come to us. We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing." —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 508.

3. How does one cooperate with heaven's plan? Isaiah 41:6.

"It would be helpful for the youth, and for parents and teachers as well, to study the lesson of cooperation as taught in the Scriptures. Among its many illustrations notice the building of the tabernacle—that object lesson of character building—in which the whole people united,

'everyone whose heart stirred him up, and everyone whom his spirit made willing.' Exodus 35:21. Read how the wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt by the returned captives, in the midst of poverty, difficulty and danger, the great task successfully accomplished because 'the people had a mind to work.' Nehemiah 4:6. Consider the part acted by the disciples in the Saviour's miracle for the feeding of the multitude. The food multiplied in the hands of Christ, but the disciples received the loaves and gave to the waiting throng." –*Education*, p. 286.

4. What do we need to learn to become stewards who cooperate with God? 1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Corinthians 10:5.

"Beyond the discipline of the home and the school, all have to meet the stern discipline of life. How to meet this wisely is a lesson that should be made plain to every child and every youth. It is true that God loves us, that He is working for our happiness, and that, if His law had always been obeyed, we should never have known suffering; and it is no less true that, in this world, as the result of sin, suffering, trouble, burdens, come to every life. We may do the children and the youth a lifelong good by teaching them to meet bravely these troubles and burdens. While we should give them sympathy, let it never be such as to foster self-pity. What they need is that which stimulates and strengthens rather than weakens." –*Education*, p. 295.

5. With what motive should every steward serve God and carry out His will? 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 5:14.

6. What is possible when one submits fully to God's will? Luke 18:27.

"God requires the training of the mental faculties. He designs that His servants shall possess more intelligence and clearer discernment than the worldling, and He is displeased with those who are too careless or too indolent to become efficient, well-informed workers. The Lord bids us love Him with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and with all the mind. This lays upon us the obligation of developing the intellect to its fullest capacity, that with all the mind we may know and love our Creator." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 333.

**"God requires the training of the mental faculties."**

7. What reward is promised when one works together with Heaven? 2 Timothy 4:8.

“A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are to continually improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 332.

8. What is an important lesson for the stewards in the Lord’s vineyard to learn? 1 Corinthians 12:18-25.

“In connection with the proclamation of the message in large cities, there are many kinds of work to be done by laborers with varied gifts. Some are to labor in one way, some in another. The Lord desires that the cities shall be worked by the united efforts of laborers of different capabilities. All are to look to Jesus for direction, not depending on man for wisdom, lest they be led astray. As laborers together with God they should seek to be in harmony with one another.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 109.

### Thought questions

1. Why is it so important to learn to do things God’s way?
2. Do you think that someone can be a good steward without caring about other people?
3. What value is there in cooperating with God?



1. What may every man count on? Revelation 22:12.

“In the day of final reckoning God will justly reckon with His servants, and He will give to every man according as His works have been. God has marked the lives of the self-denying, self-sacrificing workers who have carried the work in difficult fields.” –*Evangelism*, p. 332.

“God has marked the lives of the self-denying, self-sacrificing workers who have carried the work in difficult fields.”

“By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, ‘to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:12. Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 310.

2. What did Jesus say would be rewarded? Luke 6:22, 23.

“Great is the reward in heaven of those who are witnesses for Christ through persecution and reproach. While the people are looking for earthly good, Jesus points them to a heavenly reward. But he does not place it all in the future life; it begins here. The Lord appeared of old time to Abraham and said, ‘I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.’ Genesis 15:1.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 34.

3. What characteristic is of great value in God’s service? Matthew 24:13; James 5:11.

**“God will have men who will venture anything and everything to save souls.”**

“God will have men who will venture anything and everything to save souls. Those who will not move until they can see every step of the way clearly before them will not be of advantage at this time to forward the truth of God. There must be workers now who will push ahead in the dark as well as in the light, and who will hold up bravely under discouragements and disappointed hopes, and yet work on with faith, with tears and patient hope, sowing beside all waters, trusting the Lord to bring the increase. God calls for men of nerve, of hope, faith, and endurance, to work to the point.” –*Evangelism*, p. 63.

4. How was Moses considered as a steward of God’s grace and truth? Hebrews 3:2, 5.

“Moses was a type of Christ. He himself had declared to Israel, ‘The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken.’ God saw fit to discipline Moses in the school of affliction and poverty before he could be prepared to lead the host of Israel to the earthly Canaan. The Israel of God, journeying to the heavenly Canaan, have a Captain who needed no human teaching to prepare Him for His mission as a divine leader; yet He was made perfect through sufferings; and ‘in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted.’” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 480.

5. What testimony was given by Ahimelech concerning David? What did his actions show? 1 Samuel 22:14; 24:6, 10.

“He [David] had been anointed as king, and he thought that some measure of responsibility rested upon him for the protection of his people. If he could but have the positive assurance that he was moving in the path of duty, he would start out with his limited forces, and stand faithfully at his post whatever might be the consequences.” –(*Signs of the Times*, October 5, 1888) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1020.

6. If one is found faithful as a steward, what will the reason be? Psalm 89:5, 8, 24, 33, 37.

7. How was Christ's faithfulness as a Steward revealed? 1 John 1:9. What does it mean that He is "just" to forgive man's sin?

"God is approached through Jesus Christ, the Mediator, the only way through which He forgives sins. God cannot forgive sins at the expense of His justice, His holiness, and His truth. But He does forgive sins and that fully. There are no sins that He will not forgive in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the sinner's only hope, and if he rests here in sincere faith, he is sure of pardon and that full and free. There is only one channel and that is accessible to all, and through that channel a rich and abundant forgiveness awaits the penitent, contrite soul and the darkest sins are forgiven...."

"Justice demanded the sufferings of man; but Christ rendered the sufferings of a God. He needed no atonement of suffering for Himself; all His sufferings were for us; all His merits and holiness were open to fallen man, presented as a gift." –(Letter 12, 1892) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, pp. 912, 913.

8. What is expected of stewards of God's truth today? 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2.

**"Chosen of God, sealed with the blood of consecration, they are to rescue men and women from impending destruction,..."**

"It is the privilege of the watchmen on the walls of Zion to live so near to God, and to be so susceptible to the impressions of His Spirit, that He can work through them to tell sinners of their peril, and point them to the place of safety. Chosen of God, sealed with the blood of consecration, they are to rescue men and women from impending destruction. Faithfully are they to warn their fellowmen of the sure result of transgression, and faithfully are they to safeguard the interests of the church. At no time may they relax their vigilance. Theirs is a work requiring the exercise of every faculty of the being. In trumpet tones their voices are to be lifted, and never should they sound one wavering, uncertain note. Not for wages are they to labor, but because they cannot do otherwise, because they realize that there is a woe upon them if they fail to preach the gospel." –*Gospel Workers*, p. 15.

9. Who will determine the reward of faithful stewardship? 1 Corinthians 4:3-5.

"Do not make your opinions, your views of duty, your interpretations of Scripture, a criterion for others and in your heart condemn them if they do not come up to your ideal. Do not criticize others, conjecturing as to their motives and passing judgment upon them,... We cannot read the heart. Ourselves faulty, we are not qualified to sit in judgment

upon others. Finite men can judge only from outward appearance. To Him alone who knows the secret springs of action, and who deals tenderly and compassionately, is it given to decide the case of every soul." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 124.

10. What did Jesus' disciples—Paul, James, Peter, and John—expect following their course of faithful service? 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 2:10.

