

April 23, 2017
The Treasure Principle
God Owns It All
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Knowing God owns it all helps me realize...

God Owns It

Genesis 1:1 Psalm 24:1

Every Spending Decision is a Spiritual Decision.

Luke 16:13 Matt 6:19-21

Giving Brings Joy

2 Corinthians 8:2 Mark 12:41-44 2Co 9:6-11

Where do you keep the most treasured items you own? Why do you protect them or secure them? How do these possessions identify you or impact your life? What kind of pride do you get from ownership of this treasured possession?

Read Genesis 1:1, Psalm 24:1-2, and John 1:1-3

What do these verses imply about our possessions?

In what ways might these verses and this knowledge affect our daily lives?

In what areas of our lives does it seem easy and appropriate to believe that God is the owner?

In what areas of life do we tend to believe and feel that we earned it, therefore we own it?

Take a look at the parable in Luke 12:16 - 21

What does this parable tell us about our stuff and how it relates to God's Kingdom?

How could the man have been rich toward God?

If you would have had the chance to talk to the rich man about his plans, what would you have said to him?

The one theme that seemed to evade the rich man was the idea of stewardship. Godly stewardship prevents us from hoarding and frees us to look for opportunities to sow into the lives of other people.

What is your definition of the term "stewardship"?

How does our culture seem to feel about stewardship?
How do you see Christians as a whole embracing or neglecting stewardship?

Take a look at the chart below. What are your first impressions? How do we make the leap from column one to column two?

Ownership Model	Stewardship Model
Human Rules	God's Rules
Rich rule by power	covenant rules via community
It is mine	It is God's
Rarely entrusted	Freely entrusted to stewards
Receive	Return
keep	Share
Me	You

Stewardship is most often associated with money.

In Matthew Jesus said ... Mt 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

As we consider our own stewardship, we must consider working through the difficulty of freely giving some of our hard-earned cash.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1- 5

What impresses you about this passage?

How could the Macedonians give so freely? (hint: see verse 5) This is the same key for all of us to give freely.

God promises blessings to those who give freely and often. What are some blessings given to those who give?

What are the more lasting and true gifts from God for living our lives according to his principles?

We will know the peace of God here on earth by sharing and giving. The more we give to others; the more will be given to us to share!

Everything on this earth will one day be dust blowing in the wind. Place your treasures in God's heaven where they will last for eternity.