

WHOSE SHALL THEY BE?

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God pronounced judgment on the foolish farmer who had stockpiled his harvests with only one aim – selfish indulgence. In one breath God labeled him a “fool” told him he would die that night and asked him, “THE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST PREPARED, WHOSE SHALL THEY BE? (**Luke 12:20**). The great lesson here is the folly and sin of covetousness and selfishness (**v.15**). The farmer had laid up these things for himself, but he would have no further use for them where he was going. He forgot the principle Paul clearly enunciated. “FOR WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THE WORLD, FOR NEITHER CAN WE CARRY ANYTHING OUT” (**1 Timothy 6:7**). Therefore, “WHOSE SHALL THEY BE”?

This is a good question for all of us to ask and candidly answer concerning whatever estate we may have. We must all die (**Hebrews 9:27**). We should all soberly contemplate what will happen to whatever we have accumulated in life when we are no longer living in this world. When we think of wise stewardship do we think only of our earthly lifetimes? Do we not also have a continuing stewardship concerning what we may accumulate, that it may be used wisely and to the glory of God after we die? Verily, “IT IS REQUIRED IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL” (**1 Corinthians 4:2**), applies in death, as in life.

I have known of godly men and women who generously supported the proclamation of the Truth in life, but who failed to take proper steps to continue this support in death. I had a dear aunt who loved the Lord and served Him well for all of her life that spanned almost a century. She left her estate to offspring who have not the slightest interest in the Lord, His church or His Truth. Several years ago, I knew of a faithful elderly couple with no children who had discussed leaving their estate to the church. They “never got around to it” before death overtook them. Their considerable wealth went to nieces and nephews who were Mormons.

In all such cases, those who so strongly supported the Truth with their wealth in life allowed their resources in death to tear down what they spent their lives building up. Not only is their wealth lost to the cause of Christ by such negligence; it strengthens sin and error, making the advancement of Truth more difficult. Some saints intend to make provisions for the Lord's work in their wills, but neglect it too long.

Consider some things a good steward of wealth will do regarding his estate, whether large or small:

1. You will make a will if you have not done so (even young people/couples should do this). Without a will you have no control over what happens to your estate; a judge will decide.
2. If you made a will several years ago, you should re-read and reevaluate it in light of any changed circumstances.

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3. You should ask yourself if those to whom you have willed or have thought about including as beneficiaries of your estate have your spiritual convictions and if they will continue to support the Truth as you now do? If not, wise stewardship requires that you alter your will to implement this continued support after you die.

Every faithful child of God should think seriously on this question: "THE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST PREPARED, WHOSE SHALL THEY BE?"