

Stretching Exercises

One of the best known verses of scripture warns that "the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10, kjv). The text goes on to explain that, "Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" (v 10, niv). What does this passage say to you? Is wealth a burden? A challenge? Something to pursue? Shun?

God's gifts are not limited to financial wealth. When we think about being good stewards of the Lord's possessions, we must think of the environment and everything in it. (Review Genesis 1:28 and Psalm 8:5-8.) To truly follow a "servant lifestyle," what changes would you need to make?

In chapter 5 we explored the idea that God gives each of us special gifts to use in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. With that thought in mind, consider this passage from 1 Peter 4:10, "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." How might we use our gifts to help one another?

Respond to these questions:

√ How might stewardship relate to pursuing volunteer opportunities in your community?

√ A popular expression of a few years ago urged us to "look out for No. 1." How would Jesus view this mindset? Review the Bible's teachings on selfishness and greed.

√ What are the guidelines for giving as set forth in the Bible?

√ Explain the concept of man having been created to have dominion over God's world. What are the limits of our responsibilities? How much control are we expected to have in reality?
