

Belonging To God

Belonging = be the property of; be the rightful possession of; be a member or part of; be rightly placed in a specified position; be rightly classified in or assigned to a specified category.

Luke 16:1-13 (ESV)

- 1 He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions.
- 2 And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'
- 3 And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.
- 4 I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.'
- 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'
- 6 He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'
- 7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'
- 8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.
- 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.
- 10 "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.
- 11 If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?
- 12 And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?
- 13 No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

I. What belongs to God?

1. *The HEAVENS*

Psalms 89:11a (ESV) - The heavens are yours;

2. The WORLD (Earth)

Psalms 89:11b (ESV) - ... the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.

3. The LAND

Lev. 25:23 (ESV) - The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.

4. The ANIMALS

Psalms 50:10 (ESV) - For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

5. The MONEY

Hag 2:8 (ESV) - The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.

6. The PEOPLE

Ezek. 18:4 (ESV) - Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

Psalms 24:1 (ESV) - The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

II. Why would you want your life to belong to God?

1. He PROTECTS and CARES for what is His!

2. He can and WILL MAKE FRUITFUL what is His!

John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears MUCH FRUIT, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear MUCH FRUIT and so prove to be my disciples.

3. He TREASURES what is His!

III. What makes all these things belong to God?

1. He is the CREATOR of all!

2. He alone is ETERNAL!

3. He PURCHASED our life!

1 Cor. 6:19-20 (ESV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,
20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

IV. Why would God purchase what already belongs to Him?

John 10:28 (ESV) - I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Mal 3:8 (ESV) - Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions.

V. What is my responsibility with what belongs to God?

1 Cor. 4:2 (ESV) - Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

(NIV) Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.