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This work is dedicated to my wife, Aggie, and to my two sons, Aaron and Matthew, for all their love, support and encouragement. They are truly gifts from God for which I am extremely grateful.
PREFACE

Christian stewardship is often likened to a three-legged stool, with the three legs being time, talents, and treasures. However, I would add three more legs: body, mind, and spirit. Gifts of treasures are arguably the easiest to give — simply write a check or drop a bill into the collection plate. It is often much harder to give of ourselves — time, talent, body, mind, and spirit. However, unless we give freely of all six elements, can we really claim to understand Christian stewardship?

As you work through these materials, you will notice that I spend a lot of time on gifts of treasures. This is intentional. Although the stewardship stool has six legs, I maintain that they are not equal in length. The longest leg is that of “treasures.” Is it the most valuable? Not necessarily. Rather, gifts of treasures are frequently the first stumbling block encountered on the stewardship journey. Jesus knew this and, as a result, spent a lot of his ministry speaking about money and treasurers. Likewise, I spend a lot of time on the “treasures” leg of the stewardship stool. Upon completion of these six lessons, you will have a better understanding of what God expects of you — to live in this world, not apart from it. As Christians, stewardship needs to become a way of living our lives, not just a series of periodic giving actions.

May the Lord continue to bless you as you travel through life on your stewardship journey.
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