

**EMBRACING GOD’S PLAN**  
*MASTERING MONEY, #1*  
Pastor Dennis Clanton  
Woodland Church  
Sunday, January 7, 2017

*“O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you. When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers— the moon and the stars you set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority— the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents. O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!” (Psalm 8, NLT)*  
(See also: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15)

*“Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” (Genesis 1:26–28, NLT)*

**GOD IS THE OWNER; WE ARE THE STEWARDS.**

*“The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.” (Genesis 2:15, NLT)*

*“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.” (Hebrews 1:3, NIV)*

1. God created everything.
2. God sustains everything.

**STEWARDSHIP EMBRACES PARTNERSHIP.**

*“We are coworkers belonging to God.” (1 Corinthians 3:9, NEB)*

## **STEWARDSHIP EMBRACES THE HOPE OF CHRIST'S RETURN.**

*“We are filled with hope, as we wait for the glorious return of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself to rescue us from everything that is evil and to make our hearts pure. He wanted us to be his own people and to be eager to do right. Teach these things, as you use your full authority to encourage and correct people. Make sure you earn everyone’s respect.” (Titus 2:13–15, CEV)*

*“Keep your shirts on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their master to come back from his honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when he arrives and knocks. Lucky the servants whom the master finds on watch! He’ll put on an apron, sit them at the table, and serve them a meal, sharing his wedding feast with them. It doesn’t matter what time of the night he arrives; they’re awake—and so blessed!” (Luke 12:35–38, Message)*

1. Be watchful.
2. Be ready.

## **STEWARDSHIP EMBRACES THE TITHE.**

*“Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines.” (Proverbs 3:9, LB)*

*“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.” (Deuteronomy 14:23, LB)*

*“When you become successful, don’t say, ‘I’m rich, and I’ve earned it all myself.’ Instead, remember that the LORD your God gives you the strength to make a living. That’s how he keeps the promise he made to your ancestors.” (Deuteronomy 8:17–18, CEV)*

1. Tithing is a reminder.
2. Tithing says thank-you.

*“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:” (Psalm 37:5, NIV)*