

"FAITHFUL IN GOD'S SERVICE"**Introduction**

1. Temptation: Why serve God? Few do so.
2. This parable shows we should do so.
3. It may not be so well known.

1. THE FAITHFUL AND WISE STEWARD: v.42-44

- 1) What is meant here by a "steward", v.42
 - (i) a Christian
 - (ii) especially an Elder or Minister
- 2) Who are the "household"? v.42
The congregation or people of God
- 3) The "portion of meat" v. 42
Good teaching + preaching for the soul
- 4) The attributes of the steward: v.42
 - (i) faithful: to God's word / to souls
OBSERVE: This demands study and hard work
 - (ii) wise: using the best way to help them,
NOT too difficult / too long.
- 5) The steward's reward: v.44
- 6) When it is given: v.43
APPLICATION: Let us do God's work patiently

2. THE UNFAITHFUL AND BAD STEWARD: v.45-46

- 1) "But" (v.45): there are bad stewards
- 2) An insight into the mind: "delayeth"
- 3) The behaviour he ought not to adopt:
 - (i) to beat: rough, harsh treatment

(ii) to be gluttonous:(iii) to be drunken:**ILLUSTRATION**: The sons of Eli – the Pharisees and their treatment of Christ – the Confessional4) The reward of the bad steward:(i) when he is not expecting it(ii) "cut him in sunder". Explain.(iii) "portion with the unbelievers"**OBSERVE**: The life is wrong / the attitude is wrong / the behaviour is wrong.**APPLICATION**: We need to watch out attitudes**3. THE REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS: v.34 / v.46**1) The good steward:(i) has his eye on the heavenly reward(ii) he is busy in his Master's service(iii) he knows Christ will return(iv) he is ready to receive Christ at once2) So, a great reward is given him:(i) a status of honour is given: v.37(ii) whether soon or late: v.38(iii) a marvellous reward: v. 43-443) The bad steward:(i) he will be punished proportionately(ii) the greater his privilege (v.47)(iii) or the less (v.48)**DOCTRINE**: There are degrees of glory and also of punishment**APPLICATION**: See how good a work the ministry is!**PSALM****122: 1 – 9****119: 121 – 128****126: 1 – 6****CONCLUSION**

1. Let us remember this.
2. The bad "Christian" will be punished forever
3. The real Christian will be rewarded forever