

On Being Accountable

At every turn we are urged (or required) to be accountable to someone or something. We are accountable to our government, our supervisor(s) where we work, to our spouses and family, school, etc. Each of us must answer in some fashion to some or all of these. There are consequences if we fail to meet our responsibilities.

Consider the parable of the unjust steward recorded in Luke 16:1-13 who was called by his master to give an account of his stewardship. The steward was accused of wasting his master's goods and he immediately devised a scheme to provide for himself if he was fired, as we would say today. However, he was commended by his master for being shrewd, but his relationship with his master was permanently changed. While this parable illustrates the merits of being accountable, the parable does not remotely mirror the scope of our accountability to God.

First, every person who ever lived, and will live, must give an account to God. We read in Ecclesiastes 3:15b, *And God requires an account of what is past.* Also, Peter writes, *They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead* (1 Peter 4:5). Our accountability to God covers every aspect of our lives. Jesus said, *But I say to you for every idle word men may speak, they will give an account of it in the Day of Judgment* (Matthew 12:36). The scope of our accountability to God is further shown by Hebrews 4:13, *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

What do these verses tell each of us as they relate to our service to the Lord and His church at Karns? First, these verses suggest we should be willing to do what we are capable of doing in the Lord's kingdom. There are numerous areas of responsibility waiting to be filled. There is a need for a deacon to organize and direct congregational visitation. We also need a deacon to support our education program for grades K through high school. These are two examples of urgent needs. Secondly, those of us who have assigned tasks and areas of responsibility should perform these jobs to the best of our ability. Accepting full responsibility for our areas of service and performing our work to the best of our ability meets God's expectation of us, plus it encourages one another.

Let each of us resolve to be active in the work at Karns and give our best effort to the Lord with the view that we are accountable to God in every aspect of our lives. Remember, *So each of us shall give an account of himself to God* (Romans 14:12).

For the elders,
Don Denton