

## **Actively use our gifts of time, talent and treasure to support and participate in the work of God in the Church and community**

Time, talent, and treasure. It is one of the ways that the church has talked about the stewardship of all we have. But often people hear “just another talk about money.” Stewardship is way more than money; it is the offering of our entire selves to God. We have a choice: to live self-centered lives or Christ-centered lives. God gives us all our time, talents and treasure; and in grateful thanks we remember that these gifts belong to God in the first place, and offer them in service to God.

We are called to give from our treasure. God knows that wealth has the potential to rule our life, to become an idol. By giving of our treasure to God we remember that our self-worth comes from being a child of God, not from our money. To hold back from giving of our treasure is to say that our treasure is more important than God. “You cannot serve God and wealth” and we are called to serve God. But giving of our treasure is not enough. I have heard it said that giving God our wealth without our heart is like giving gifts to your spouse but not your love. While giving of our treasure is important – especially in cultures such as ours where we “put our money where our mouth is” we also are called to give God our talent and our time. Give God our talent – God has blessed us with skills and gifts and it is with those that we are called to offer God our labor, for it would be a sorry world indeed where we only do tasks we are lousy at! And

we are to give our time to God. What would it look like to give God a tithe of our time? If we think about the roughly 16 hours each day that we are awake, that would be 96 minutes – 1 hour and 36 minutes of time given to God and the service of God each day. That time could be prayer, spiritual reading, service to others and anything else which is with intentionality offered to God for the work of God. (Or of course you could simply give all of Sunday!)

Time, talent, and treasure – it is through these that we offer our whole selves to God.