

Reflection

Do you think of time as a gift?
How do you thank God for this gift?
How are you a good steward of your time?
What do you do that wastes time?

Is it a priority for you to attend Church each Sunday?
Have you thought of attending midweek church so as to give God some more of your time?

Timely Facts and Figures

In an average lifetime you will spend 8 years at work and 4 years eating, 5 years standing and 12 years talking, 2 years unsuccessfully returning phone calls, 1 year searching for misplaced objects, 9 months opening junk mail and 8 months waiting at traffic lights. And through it all you'll blink 415 million times and your heart will pump over 2,500,000,000 life-preserving beats.



If you live to 70, you'll have at your disposal about 613,600 hours. 204,400 will be devoted to sleep, 176,800 will be spent at work or school, 51,100 will be used for eating, bathing and going to the toilet, 38,325 will go in travelling from here to there, and 76,000 will be spent on household chores.

This leaves you with only 66,975 hours for personal enjoyment. So stop procrastinating!

Stewardship is everything I do after I say
'I believe'.

1. TIME



As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mark 1:16-20

The disciples gave up 100% of their time to be with Jesus. They followed Jesus immediately. We are called to give up some of our time to follow Jesus.

TIME

WEEK ONE

STEWARDSHIP 2007

Time

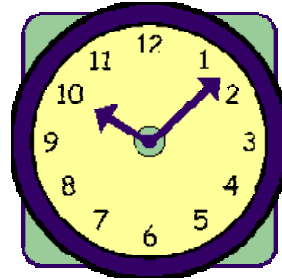
Time is a treasure all people possess in exactly equal amounts.

Evaluating how one's time is spent is an indication of the extent to which good stewardship is practiced.

For many people, time is a precious commodity because it is seemingly in such short supply.

Time not only goes by quickly, but there is the perceived notion that it controls life itself. The overriding concern about being on time, keeping appointments, and meeting deadlines consumes all available hours.

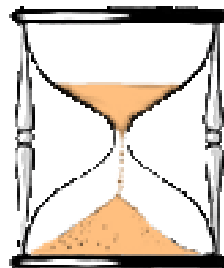
In this setting, it is easy to lose sight of just how time is being spent. It is also common to overlook the fact that time should be spent in ways consistent with Christian beliefs.



Stewardship

As people of God, we understand that God has given us everything we have and everything we are as gifts. It is through God's love that we live in this beautiful world, have families and friends, and have heard the Good News in Jesus Christ. God has called us to be stewards of these gifts. God trusts us to care for these gifts and to use them to share his love.

Stewardship is how we spend our time, how we use our material possessions, how we spend our financial resources and how we use our talents.



The Gift of time

One of the gifts God has given us is the gift of time. Using this gift wisely can be as simple as listening to a friend who is troubled, showing extra patience, recycling, taking out the garbage for a sick neighbour, volunteer work and random acts of kindness. It is also the things that we do every day such as prepare a meal, care for children, go to work, and clean house.

It is important to remember that being a good steward of your time does not always mean being busy. You are using your time to God's purpose when resting and taking a break from the busyness, when you renew your spirit and regain strength.

Some days may not feel like much of a gift—they may seem to drag on, filled with routine activities. Some days seem to fly by and it is evening before you know it. But they are all a gift, an opportunity to serve God.

Stewardship is not just what you do but also the attitude with which you do it. Each and every day you have the same amount of time. Stewardship is choosing to spend that time seeking God's presence, sharing God's love, caring for all that God has entrusted to you and giving thanks for this wonderful gift.

Celebrate the stewardship to which God has called you!

