

## Lesson 15: Stewardship: TIME & TALENT

(Part 2)

Our Creator has a beautiful plan for each one of us and desires to lead us into that plan. When we are walking in harmony with the plan of God for our lives, we experience true joy and peace; and our lives are full and complete. Part of God's plan for our lives is that we use wisely and responsibly the time and talents and abilities God has given us.

Every man, woman and child has exactly the same amount of time each week. Everyone receives exactly \_\_\_\_\_ hours each week. Some people know how to get so much accomplished from the time God has given them. Many people, week after week, just seem to waste their time away on useless things and get nothing done. Some people work so hard that they neglect other responsibilities.

*Psalm 90:12*

How does God want us to use His gift of time?

What will help us to use time wisely according to this verse?

Good use of time does not come naturally. It must be learned. As God's people we want to make changes in our lives to be better stewards of our time. It begins with our attitude. We must recognize certain truths:

1. We must recognize what a precious gift time is. Some people will spend millions of dollars to try to add more time to their lives. We must recognize that time is much more precious than money.
2. We must recognize that God holds us responsible for our use of time. We will have to answer to Him for how we use our lives.
3. We must recognize that the way we use our time shows what our priorities are. For example, if we spend no time in prayer or in personal study of God's Word, it is because these things are not a priority for us. Our calendar reflects our priorities.

If our attitude recognizes the truth of the three things above, we are ready to do actual things to help us make good use of our God-given time. The first thing to do is:

### SET YOUR PRIORITIES

*Matthew 6:33*

What is the top priority of our lives?

How we use our time and our talents shows if growing closer to God and spreading His kingdom has top priority in our life, or if something else has first place in our heart. Whatever

has top priority in our heart is our \_\_\_\_\_.

If something else but God and His Work has top place in our heart, we have a \_\_\_\_\_.

In order to make the best and wisest use of your time, you must clearly identify your top priorities. What is most important to you in life? What is second most important? What is third. Spend time in prayer over this and write them down. Examine your use of time and your talents and see if it reflects your priorities. Perhaps it reflects a hidden set of priorities. This kind of reflection must become a habit if we want to keep making the best use of our time.

**NEXT, PLAN YOUR TIME !!!!!!!**

This cannot be stressed enough. If you do not plan your time, it will slip away from you before you know it. If you do not plan your schedule each day and each week, there is no way that you can get the most out of your time.

We have already talked about planning and setting aside time each day for your quiet time of prayer and Bible study with God. We have seen that if you do not discipline yourself to set aside the time, you will never get around to it.

In the same way, we need to plan and schedule other things we wish to get done. Begin each week by making a written list of the things you wish to get done during the week. After you have everything written down on a piece of paper, decide which things have top priority, and mark #1 and #2 and so on. Likewise, plan your week and your month and your year. Living in the country that has the fastest pace of life in the world, we cannot afford to live without this habit of planning our time.

The Pareto Principle: 80/20. This will help us say yes and no.

What are some time wasters:

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 5 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 6 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 7 _____ |
| 4 _____ | 8 _____ |

We want to spend a little time examining what St. Paul says in Romans 12.

*v. 1*

Why do we want to use our time and talents in a way that pleases God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does this verse call our good use of the gifts God has given us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

v.2

What are some ways the devil tempts us to be conformed to the world? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. 4-5

What should our attitude be towards the other members of our church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God has brought you to our church, a body of believers. How does God want you to function in our church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. 6-7

In your own words, what is the main idea here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are some opportunities to serve in our church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## HOMEWORK

1. Examine your use of time. Is too much time slipping away from you with things that do not match your own priorities? Write down your top three priorities:

1)

2)

3)

Does your use of time reflect these things as your top priorities? This week, review and examine your use of time.

2. In your prayer with someone, ask that the Lord help show you ways to be more involved in advancing the Mission of our Congregation to which He had led you.