

Devotion 23
Time

Monday, Week 4

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)
My times are in your hand. (Psalm 31:15a)

I was having a conversation with folks in a small group once. We were talking about our kids and life in general, and someone said it. “Life really is short isn’t it? I really hope the kids understand. I hope they’re wise enough to live every day to its fullest because every day is precious.” Have you had this conversation with someone (yet)? The serious one where you truly recognize the reality? Life is short. Every second of life is a gift to be lived to its fullest.

This reality is the basis for the stewardship of time. As Christians, we know that the best way not to waste one precious second of the life God has given to us is to strive to live every moment to His glory. So, as husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sons, and daughters, students and workers, friends and neighbors, citizens and church members—and in every other calling of our lives, we look to use our time to God’s glory! At work or recreation, in our occupation or avocation, our hope is to use every second to God’s glory! In all things, we take as our example Jesus, who “*did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*” (Matt. 20:28b). This is the stewardship of life! It is the best way to live!

Certainly, a portion of the stewardship of our time is lived within the ministry of the church and our calling to be a part of it. When the writer to the Hebrews says, “*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,*” he is speaking to the stewardship of our time within the church. So it was with the early Christians, who “*devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer*” (Acts 2:42). This was stewardship of time! It was a good use of time when “they met together in their homes,” in addition to worshiping together in the temple courts. When they were called upon to love one another, to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, or build up one another in the faith, they were being instructed on how to spend their time as brothers and sisters and fellow disciples in Christ.

So it remains today. May God lead and guide you to step out in faith boldly and commit a sacrificial amount of your time for the work of the kingdom. Start with Sunday worship. No one can bring to the fellowship what you do. Bible Study is also a good use of your time. So are ministries in our key vision areas at Trinity: children’s ministry, youth ministry, ministry for, with & by senior citizens, music ministry, men’s & women’s ministries, small group ministry, outreach ministry, and a host of other ministry opportunities. May God lead you as you humble yourself before Him as the Giver of life—of time—to each of us!

Prayer: Dearest Jesus, in the fullness of time, You came to suffer and die for me. Help me to use every moment of my life to Your glory. Especially guide me as I look to give my time to meaningful ministry in Your name. Amen!