

TIME STEWARDS

Of all God's gifts, time is truly one of the most valuable. You can't save it up for later, and you can't have it back when it's gone. "Reclaiming my time!" only works if you're appearing before congress. Therefore, we must make the most of our time while we have it. What things do you always seem to find time to do?

[Psalm 31:15a] "*My times are in Your hand!*" Knowing this provides great comfort, because God ordered our days at the start of His creation. As faithful stewards of God's gifts, how do we "tithe" our time?

The firstfruit of our week. Jesus was raised from death on "*the first day of the week*", the day after God's Sabbath, what we now call Sunday. On most of our calendars, Sunday still occupies the first column on the far left. The "firstfruit" of our week, therefore, is "the Lord's Day". What should be our priority on this day?

The firstfruit of our busy time. A third of our time during the week is typically an 8-hour workday. A "tithe" of this would be about 48 minutes. How can we be a "time steward" on our workday commute to work?

The firstfruit of our leisure time. A third of our workdays are precious "personal time". How can you "tithe" your lunch hour? How could your evening routine begin with God in mind?

The firstfruit of our bedtime. The final third of a typical day is cloaked in slumber. Who or what gets control of your brain before you go to sleep?

St. Paul urges us [Ephesians 5:15-16], "*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*" What would be the best, and wisest stewardship of the time God has given you to use?

If you find yourself "pressed for time", you might be surprised to know that God provides everything that He expects from us. Time also, under His control, comes from Him and yields to Him. Joshua reports [10:13c] that "*The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.*" Is anything impossible for God?

St. Peter tells us [1 Peter 4:10], "*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*" As you return the firstfruits of God's time to Him, you'll see that He also provides additional ways ("*varied grace*") to be stewards of it.

We're reminded [1 Corinthians 4:1-2], "*This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.*" Your life as God's faithful steward doesn't start or stop at certain times. It's our full-time identity. Consider the mystery that God, through His Holy Spirit, energizes and equips you for a life of stewardship, providing all that you need to make it possible.

Does the time you spend with God reflect the priority He expects from you? Invest a moment to examine yourself as God's steward. Pray that He would show you opportunities to return the firstfruits of all His gifts to you, including time.

PRAYER: Lord God, You are in control of every moment. Move us to call on You in prayer and to trust Your promises. Order our days and weeks, that we may be of good use to You as stewards of Your gifts. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.