

**Monday, January 21** – *“If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.” (Romans 14:8)* Any conversation about time, talents and treasures has to start with the proper perspective. If you believe that you belong to yourself, someone else or something else you will use the three “T’s” differently than if you believe you belong to God. So, today’s quest for you is to figure out to whom do you belong. Do you belong to God or do you belong to your family, your job, your relationships, your money, your past...? Not sure how to answer that question? Take some time today and follow the trail. In what do you invest your time, talents and treasures? No judgment, just be real. Until you are real with God, God will never be real to you. God will meet you right where you are, but get ready because God won’t leave you right where you are.

**Tuesday, January 22** – *“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of your flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)* I know that you woke up this morning wondering how you can stop gratifying the desires of your flesh. Wondering how you can stop putting the things of this world, your worries, your anxiousness, your fears or the seeking of pleasure on the throne of your life. The answer is simple, it just isn’t easy. If it were easy than everyone would be doing it. The answer is to “walk by the Spirit”. What does that mean? It means that you consult with God on everything. Seek God’s guidance on how to use your time, talents and treasures. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your decision making. Yes, follow the rules – love your neighbor as yourself, but also don’t exclude God from your family vacations, your dinner plans, your job, your health, etc.... To walk by the Spirit means that you are walking with God every single moment of your life. God is with you in everything you do, everywhere you go and every decision that you make.

**Wednesday, January 23** – *“Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” (Romans 8:5)* The whole purpose of this series on time, talents and treasures is to get you to “set your minds on what the Spirit desires”. So much of our lives are driven by what we desire. Some of your desires and the Spirit’s desires line up. There are other desires that you seek that don’t line up with the Spirit. The question for today is on what will you set your mind? Will you set your mind on the desires of the flesh – greed, lust, envy, boasting, etc.... Or will you set your mind on what the Spirit desires – love, compassion, calling, caring, etc.... This is where it gets personal because nobody can answer these questions but you. Also, nobody can do anything about the answers to these questions but you.

**Thursday, January 24** – *“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)* Many people see baptism as a ritual that must be performed in order for a person’s soul to go to heaven someday. While that is a piece of the significance of baptism, we can’t miss the rest of the story. Baptism is also something that we do in order to live a new life here on earth today. Salvation through faith in Jesus is not just an eternal life insurance policy, it is also a new life today, right here and right now. You and I live this new life through the use of our time, talents and treasures. What would you do differently with your time, talents and treasures if you were given a new life today? (Surprise! A new life because of Jesus is yours.)

**Friday, January 25** – *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)* Here is the plan. Over the next several weeks I am going to be talking a great deal about your time, talents and treasures. I am not doing this because I want to raise money for the church. I am not doing this because I want more people to volunteer in the church. I am doing this to nudge you to get busy living your life of “faith in the Son of God”. This isn’t about the church, this about you and God. It is none of my business or the church’s business how you use your time, talents and treasures. It is my business and the church’s business to hold you accountable relating to how God wants you to use your time, talents and treasures. These next few weeks, as a church, we will hold each other’s feet to the fire. You are invited to seriously consider how you are using your time, talents and treasures and you will be invited to make a covenant with God on how you will continue to use these gifts. The life you now live in the body is a life of faith in Jesus. I dare you to prove it through the use of your time, talents and treasures.

Following Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_

Yours is a “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Christianity is not just an \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_

You work out its implications in every detail of your life - \_\_\_\_\_

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ your journey to anyone else.

You are an \_\_\_\_\_!