

September 14, 2019

Local Church Budget

Stewardship could be summarized with four words: Time, Talents, Temple, and Treasure. These four “T’s” sound simple, but would harvest immense results if given some consideration. When believers realize that absolutely everything one has belongs to God and that life on this earth is short, life begins!

Solomon wrote: “. . .Vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (Eccl. 1:2). Yet he also explained that there is a time for everything (Eccl. 3:1), and that it is good to enjoy little things such as food, drink, and the spoils of life. Solomon assured his readers that this is a gift from God.¹

Solomon closed his reflections by appealing to young people to consider the end of their lives, so that meaning and satisfaction can be found. “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil” (Eccl. 12:13-14, NIV).

As good stewards of God’s gifts, let us reflect on how following the will of God will result in faithfulness in returning God’s tithes and giving liberal offerings. Using time wisely, making responsible decisions with our health, and using God-given talents for the common good should result in an abundant, faithful, and rewarding life of generosity. May God’s blessings be poured out on you as you prayerfully consider your local church’s needs today.

¹ Jacques B. Doukhan, *Ecclesiastes: All Is Vanity* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 2006), 33.