



### ***April 1, 2010***

The theme of the church's pledge campaign last fall and the continuing theme is "Stewardship for Life". We speak of giving of our "Time, Talent and Treasure". We are blessed to have many people who give generously of their time, talent and treasure. There is great reward in knowing that the contribution of time and talent has furthered the kingdom. It may be as simple as receiving a smile and a word of thanks. The blessings brought about by our gifts of treasure are all around us. They can be seen in our wonderful staff, the church facilities, the many programs that are offered, worship services and a host of other things.

The problem with treasure is that it equals money and money is often difficult to approach and discuss in the church as it somehow makes us uneasy. When we think about it that shouldn't be the case. Jesus spoke of money in many of his sermons, addresses and parables. As Christians we must ask what Christ would have us do personally in the handling of our funds and act accordingly. Money is a part of our relationship with God.

We must remind ourselves that, first and foremost, all we have belongs to God. Giving is a spiritual matter and a choice. It is an expression of our faith, our love and our gratitude and puts us closer to God's work through the church.

In I Timothy 6:18 - 19 we read: "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

Be encouraged to think about and prayerfully consider giving year round, not just when it's time to fill out the next pledge card.

By Bob Hill