

Guidelines for the Use of Our Time, Talents, Ties, Trade, Temple and Treasures

It is not good to be selfish, self-centered, focused on our own pleasure, pursuits, possessions or prosperity. Living for “me first” disgusts God. Being unwilling to make sacrifices and suffer inconvenience is an attitude which God detests. We must be intentional and purposeful in the use of our time, talents, temple (body), ties (relationships), trade (career) and treasures (money) in the mission of Jesus the Christ (helping the unsaved in order to gain access and share the gospel) and the **ministry of Jesus the Christ** (helping saved Christ followers who have a need and assisting in their spiritual growth).

Note the following scriptures:

Acts 20:35 New International Version - UK (NIVUK) The Apostle Paul’s Declaration

In everything I did, I showed you by my example that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**

Ephesians 4:28 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

[Christ followers] must work hard, doing something useful and beneficial with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Hebrews 6:10-11 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.

Hebrews 13:16-17 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Luke 14:13-15 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

‘But when you have a gathering to eat, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

Matthew 6:1-4 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

‘Be careful not to practise your righteousness [acts of kindness and giving to help the needy] in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So, when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.