



What is Consecration Sunday? Each year at Zion we select a Sunday to be an opportunity for members to consecrate stewardship plans and then spend the year cheerfully serving and giving (2 Cor 9:6-8).

What is "Stewardship?" You can say it out loud, "In Jesus, I am saved!" and also, "In Jesus, I am the handiwork of God!" "God has plans for me and has gifted me for those purposes (Eph 2:8-10, Rom 12)." Knowing this, planning for it, carrying it out... this is stewardship. Jesus told parables of faithful and unfaithful stewards which also inform our understanding of God's concern that we live out our callings. Stewardship is a joyful living out of God's holy purposes for your life. It is all-encompassing, Sunday through Saturday, 24/7, at home, at Zion, at school, at work, with friends, everywhere with everyone. 100% When making stewardship plans, it helps to think about the three Ts of life: Time, Talent, Treasure. Consecration Sunday is a day to intentionally lift these plans to the Lord in prayer and ask for His help and grace. Because individual stewardship includes *together-stewardship*. We consecrate our varied plans together and include our *together-plans* of tithing, offerings, and service in Zion activities.

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
(Col 3:17)

"Consecration" means to set something apart for Holy purposes. On Sundays, we have been talking about how God has set us apart for holy purposes and for the glory of His name in everything we do. Consecration Sunday is an intentional time each year to let the Lord know that we recognize this giftedness, thank Him for it, and plan to apply it to His purposes at home and also at Zion. "In the coming year at Zion, and elsewhere, what **time** will I budget for the various holy tasks God has laid out for me? What **skills** and spiritual giftedness will I employ in holy works? What

money and **belongings** will I use and give?" All your life is the Lord's and by God's design and gifting, your life is different from other people's lives. What will your stewardship life look like this year. Pray. Plan. Decide. Consecrate it to God and live it out joyfully.


God bless you richly this year! We are seeing people come to know Christ in new and beautiful ways. The Gospel and the means of grace are being shared abundantly and in times of deep tragedy. As you form your plans and consecrate them to the Lord, know that "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Cor 9:8).

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

(2 Cor 9:6-8)

In Christ's peace,


Pastor Stephen Heimer