

## The 4<sup>th</sup> “T” in Stewardship: Trust

*“For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand.”*

--Psalm 95:7

Like Time, Talent, and Treasure, Trust is a gift. On the horizontal level, trust is a gift we give to each other; we feel the nature of trust as gift most acutely when our trust has been taken for granted, broken, or in some way manipulated. Like Time, Talent and Treasure, trust is also a gift from God to us. We feel this most as stewards: God has entrusted to us everything God has made, and in thanksgiving we entrust ourselves to God.

Its fun to play with words sometimes—interesting dimensions of meaning can come out of the play too! “Time” can be broken down into “T” (for the cross), I, and Me. Being a steward of our time is a matter of identity; how we use our time, what we devote our time to, shapes and reflects who we are, who we become. “Talent” is a “two-cross” word, with “all-in” between. With the cross leading us and the cross protecting us the way the pillar of fire lead Israel and the pillar of cloud followed Israel in the wilderness, we can commit ourselves to using our natural and spiritual gifts in God’s service. “Treasure” likewise starts with the cross, which “reassures” us during hard times and good times alike that God is with us, provides for all our needs, and helps us find ways to give generously and kindly to help others and share faith in Jesus. “Trust” is the foundation for them all: stewardship in based on trusting God. Jesus death on the cross helps us trust that God loves us always. Jesus’ resurrection helps us trust the future, and eternity. The Holy Spirit gives us courage, wisdom, and guidance in our stewardship. “Trust” can be a partial anagram: The cross “**R**enews **U**s **S**piritually as we give our time, talent, and treasure in a life shaped by the cross.

So that’s my nomination for “the 4<sup>th</sup> T” in stewardship. What would your suggestion be? We would love to hear from you! Send it in written or video format and let us know if we can share it with the congregation. Hopefully we will discover many more “t’s” in stewardship, because as followers of Jesus Christ we are all stewards of God’s good gifts!