

# MESSAGE

Occasion : Stewardship Emphasis 2018  
Theme : Being a Blessing in 2018  
Venue : Lighthouse BBC Tatalon  
Date : July 24-26, 2018

**TITLE : Learning and Growing in the Ministry of Stewarding the Grace of God**

Text/s :

1 Peter 4:10

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

KJV

2 Peter 3:18

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

KJV

Bible Reading :

Song/s :

Other references :

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## INTRODUCTION

1 Peter 4:10

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

KJV

2 Peter 3:18

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

KJV

Jer 9:24

24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord .

KJV

Col 1:9

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

KJV

## Learning and Growing in the Ministry of Stewarding the Manifold Grace of God.

- The Grace of God to Stewards
- The Faithfulness of Stewards
- The Thankfulness of Stewards
- The Fruitfulness of Stewards
- The Growth of Stewards
- The Reward of Stewards

### A) The Grace of God to Stewards

- It is the Grace of God that we Steward
- And it is the New Testament Ekklesia that is actually and truly the Steward of the Grace of God.

2 Cor 8:1-9

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

KJV

Phil 1:1-11

1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,  
4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,  
5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;  
6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:  
7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.  
8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.  
9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;  
10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;  
11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.  
KJV

2 Cor 9:8-11

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:  
9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.  
10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)  
11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.  
KJV

Phil 4:10-19

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.  
11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.  
12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.  
13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.  
14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.  
15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.  
16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.  
17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.  
18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.  
19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.  
KJV

1 Cor 16:17

17 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.  
KJV

2 Cor 11:8-9

8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.

9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.  
KJV

- **The Grace of God in the churches**

**Note that all epistles begin with the mention the Grace of God to the churches!**

Acts 11:23

23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

KJV

2 Cor 6:1

6 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

KJV

2 Cor 9:14

14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

KJV

1 Cor 1:4-5

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

KJV

- **Grace makes us to rise above and perform beyond any condition we are in.**

2 Cor 8:2

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

KJV

2 Cor 8:9

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

KJV

- **Grace makes us to even perform beyond themselves**

2 Cor 8:3

For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

KJV

- **Grace that made them intreat (beg) to give more than receive**

2 Cor 8:4

Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift,  
KJV

- **Grace makes us to choose to do what others do not usually do.**

2 Cor 8:4

and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.  
KJV

Phil 1:4-5

4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,  
5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;  
KJV

- **Grace makes us to give ourselves to the Lord and do His will.**

2 Cor 8:5

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.  
KJV

## **B) The Faithfulness of Steward. Our response to the Grace of God.**

Luke 12:42-43

42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

KJV

Col 4:17

17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

KJV

- **The grace of God and our mind.**

2 Cor 8:1

8 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;  
KJV

- **The grace of God and its value to us**

Gal 2:21

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

KJV

Gal 2:21

21 [Therefore, I do not treat God's gracious gift as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose]; I do not set aside and invalidate and frustrate and nullify the grace (unmerited favor) of God. For if justification (righteousness, acquittal from guilt) comes through [observing the ritual of] the Law, then Christ (the Messiah) died groundlessly and to no purpose and in vain. [His death was then wholly superfluous.]

AMP

2 Cor 6:1

6 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

KJV

2 Cor 6:1

1 LABORING TOGETHER [as God's fellow workers] with Him then, we beg of you not to receive the grace of God in vain [that merciful kindness by which God exerts His holy influence on souls and turns them to Christ, keeping and strengthening them – do not receive it to no purpose].

AMP

- **The Grace of God and how it makes us**

1 Cor 15:10

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

KJV

1 Cor 15:10

10 But by the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not [found to be] for nothing (fruitless and without effect). In fact, I worked harder than all of them [the apostles], though it was not really I, but the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God which was with me.

AMP

- **The grace of God and our faithfulness.**

1 Cor 4:1-2

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

KJV

- **The Grace of God and how it makes us good finishers.**

2 Cor 8:6

6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

Phil 1:6-10

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

KJV

2 Tim 4:7-8

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

KJV

- **The Grace of God and how it makes us to abound in all areas.**

2 Cor 8:6-7

6 Inasmuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

KJV

2 Cor 9:8-10

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

KJV

## C) The Thankful Stewards

They are the thankful ones who give the most value to gifts.

- **Paul exhibited thankfulness from the very beginning of his ministry.**

1 Tim 1:12-14

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

KJV

2 Cor 4:15

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

KJV

1 Cor 4:7-13

7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

8 Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

KJV

2 Cor 4:8-11

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

KJV

2 Cor 6:4-10

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

KJV

2 Cor 11:23-30

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

KJV

2 Cor 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

KJV

- **And he enjoins everyone to be followers of him, even to exhibit how he followed Christ with thanksgiving!**

1 Cor 4:16-17

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

KJV

1 Cor 11:1-2

1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

KJV

Phil 3:17-20

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

KJV

1 Thess 1:6-7

6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

KJV

2 Thess 3:9-13

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.  
10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

KJV

Heb 6:12

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

KJV

- **The presence of Grace, upon them or us, is enough reason for thanksgiving!**

1 Cor 1:4-7

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

KJV

- **And we indeed to follow the apostles because we have been founded upon them!**

Eph 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

KJV

- **Thanksgiving is an evidence of maturity!**

Col 2:6-7

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

KJV

- **Thanksgiving is what we do in this earth which we will bring with us to glory!**

Rev 7:12

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

KJV

## D) The Growth and Fruitfulness of Stewards

- **God has given to us all things necessary so we can live our lives with effectiveness and virtue. This refers to the abounding, abundant, manifold, sufficient Grace of God.**

2 Peter 1:3

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:  
KJV

2 Cor 12:9

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.  
KJV

- **His grace is the expressed power working in us!**

Eph 1:19-20

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,  
20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,  
KJV

Eph 3:7

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.  
KJV

- **The diligence in the use of this expressed power (grace) makes us to grow and be fruitful!**

2 Peter 1:3-9

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

KJV

## E) The reward of the faithful steward

Matt 25:21-23

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: **enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: **enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

KJV

Neh 8:10

10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; **for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**

KJV

2 Cor 12:9-10

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

KJV

Luke 16:10-12

10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

KJV