

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of October 2017

Channels of God's Grace

(1 Peter 4:10)

Sundays, October 1, 8, 2017

There is the story of a Pastor preaching a sermon on missions and giving the church an opportunity to give an offering. Among those who responded was a very poor widow woman who pledged one dollar.

That afternoon, the finance ministry met to count the money and look at the pledges. On finding the widow's pledge, one of the members of the ministry said, "I know that woman. She washes for my wife. She is not able to pay this money." He took a dollar from his pocket, put it in the envelope and marked her pledge paid!

After two weeks, the woman came to church to pay the pledge. The Pastor informed her that her pledge was already paid. The widow insisted that it was not paid, because she still had the money. She stated that she had saved ten cents out of each washing and that now she had the money to pay the pledge. Finally, the Pastor told her about the finance member who paid her pledge. Tears came into her eyes, and she said, "The work of the Lord goes forward, the gospel is preached, souls are saved, but I have no part in it!"

That woman had a right to have a part. Every saved man, woman and child should have a part every week in the Lord's work. That's what stewardship is about.

The Apostle Paul had an important word for us in 2 Timothy 2:1-2, "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." **Peter admonished: "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" [1 Peter 4:10].**

Sunday, October 15, 2107

- I. The Lord has given you the resources to be a blessing – "As every man hath received the gift."

You have something to offer in God's service. The word for "gift" means a

“gift of grace.” It is used here as endowment on the believer by the operation of the Holy Spirit [Romans 12:6; 1Corinthians 12:4,9,28,30,31; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6]. Your abilities are God given. “This is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” [Ephesians 2:8]. God does not give his grace for the sole enjoyment of the recipient. He expects those who receives His Grace to pass it on to others.

The basic problem of human nature is that too often we wish to do as little as possible and to get as much as possible. The genuine Christian Spirit is to put more into life than you take out. To serve others so that your life becomes a channel through which God’s Grace flows to bless others.

Peter indicated that we are responsible for ministering these blessings to others. The word “minister” comes from a Greek word which means deacon, which signifies a servant or minister.

Sunday, October 22, 2017

II. The Lord expects you to be a channel of His Grace – “even to minister.”

Paul stated our case when he wrote, “I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gifts” [Romans 1:11]. When you bear witness to the gospel, whether by personal proclamation, Christ-like service, or tithing, you are a channel of God’s Grace. Concerning our responsibility of being channels of Grace, Paul said, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” [2 Corinthians 5:19-20].

Jesus said, “As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” [John 20:21]. The fact that we have been “allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel” [1 Thessalonians 2:4] makes us responsible for the spiritual needs of the world. Let us remember that we will one day give an account of how we have lived our lives in God’s service [1 Corinthians 4:1-2].

Sunday, October 29, 2017

III. The Lord wants you to be a good steward – “As good stewards.”

As Christians we are to be examples of good stewards. Stewardship is born only out of fellowship with and dedication to Christ. It grows out of an encounter with God and a continuing relationship with Him until one becomes possessed with the mind and spirit of Christ.

Stewardship understood in its broadest sense cannot be limited to the responsible management of your material possessions. The wise and dedicated stewardship of possessions, however, is a verification of your acknowledgement of such total stewardship. If we really believed that we are stewards – not owners – the whole face of Christianity would be changed. There would be people and money for all causes and the world would be bright with unselfish and varied ministries worthily representing “the manifold Grace of God.”

The struggle for people’s hearts is still alive – materialism, whose god is things, seeks you all. Jesus too, seeks your life. He says: your heart is my goal; it’s your soul I want!