

## **Sunday School Lesson for the Month of October 2020**

### **Channels of God's Grace**

(2 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10)

**Sunday, October 4, 2020**

A Pastor preached a sermon on mission and gave the church an opportunity to make pledges. 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 check the pledges. On finding the widow's pledge, one of the committee members said, "I know that woman. She cleans 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!

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 her cleaning money 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 all 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." Ministry always involves transmission. It was transmitted from Jesus to Paul and from Paul to Timothy. Now Timothy is given the responsibility to transmit it to others who in turn will be faithful in continuing the process. The only possible end to Christianity would be our failure to transmit the Gospel to faithful men and women who will transmit the Gospel to faithful men and women who will transmit to others. The Apostle Paul here in these first two verses of the second chapter of 2 Timothy presents a key element of a strong obedient, spiritual life, using the analogy of a teacher. A teacher teaching a teacher, who in turn, teaches other teachers, who then teach still other teachers. The idea is that it will be a continuing process.

Paul was passing it on to Timothy. It was now Timothy's turn to entrust the gospel to others. That's stewardship!

**In 1 Peter 4:10, 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."**

## Sunday, October 11, 2020

### **I. The Lord has given you the resources to be a blessing “gift” – “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. We are ministers or servants.

## Sunday, October 18, 2020

### **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. “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God moreover it is required of stewards, that a man be found faithful” [1 Corinthians 4:1-2]

## Sunday, October 25, 2020

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

As Christians we are to be examples of good stewards. Goodness 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.”