

Ministry Part 3

“1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) 3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: 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 long suffering, 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. 11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. 12 Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels. 13 Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.” (2 Corinthians 6:1-13 KJV)

We continue in this message to speak about ministry. In verse 3 we read, *“Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:”* The Greek word for ‘ministry’ here is ‘**Diakonia**’. Apostle Paul here was dealing with an important issue that the ministry should not be blamed, when the people started to point about certain incident as a negative thing to impeach the ministry. The ministry might be blamed for a certain sin, mistake, a certain offence or because people wrong opinion and misunderstandings. **But what God expect from the church and ministry is to reset things back to what cause the blame to be removed, which means that we should do our best to let the blame be removed.**

“1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.” (2 Corinthians 6:1 KJV) **Let us remember we are workers with Christ, therefore let us understand that we receive the grace of God for a certain purpose, not only to be saved but to serve God and to work with Him. In such a situation we should not abuse the grace of God and do things that are not correct in the sight of God. Stop sinning and repent so the ministry shall not be blamed.**

Let us remember that we are a new creation, *“17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)* And we are the ambassadors of Christ, appealing to the people in the name of Christ to reconcile to God, *“20 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 5:20 KJV)* **Therefore, let us remember that we are a new creation, and we are the ambassadors of Christ, appealing to the people in the name of Jesus to reconcile to God, therefore we ourselves need to be a real model example to them.**

“2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” (2 Corinthians 6:2 KJV) We had already been accepted in Christ and we had been helped and rescued much by Christ. Now, this is the time that God is working to bring salvation to

mankind, and we are the instruments that God is using to bring that. **Therefore let us cherish all the goodness of God toward us and let us also be faithful to Him, and to work with Him to be a good example to others that God is reaching them through our lives and through our ministry.**

“3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed.” (2 Corinthians 6:3 KJV) We should not be in any way a stumbling block to others so the ministry will not be blamed and accused. The Word of God always will lead us how to avoid such situations and how to deal with them. Paul expounded how to avoid that and how to reverse it if that had happened.

The Greek word used for ‘blamed’, is ‘**momaomai**’, and it means to blame, to find fault with, or to mock at. **So basically it might be there is no sin from the church side, but people would pick anything against the church trying to disqualify the church. Why? To justify their disobedience, and to justify their non willingness to abide with the truth and serve God.**

The word ‘**momaomai**’ or ‘**blame**’ is repeated in another place, *“16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. 17 For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you. 18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches; 19 And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind: 20 Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us: 21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. 22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.” (2 Corinthians 8:16-22 KJV)* Here Apostle Paul said in verse 20, *“that no man should blame us”*, not for any fault or mistake he did. Paul was doing the very will of God in collecting finances to help the saints in Jerusalem. Why there was blame from the people toward Paul and the brethren with him? It seemed there was criticism to what Paul was doing, either because some of the people were disobedient and were not willing to give, or because of anger, envy and jealousy, or because of immaturity and lack of knowledge in God’s Word, or because of misunderstanding and insufficient communication, or because of the lack of trust in the brethren who were conducting that ministry.

Also might be other reason behind the blames, like a wrong motive or love of money, but the point that we need to stress here is that the blame was not due to fault or sin in Paul and the brethren who were with him. But Paul took that seriously because the ministry will be ultimately affected when it is blamed. **In the same way we need to take all the possible measures so that the ministry and our service to God will not be blamed or spoken about in a bad way.**

Apostle Paul took certain measures to send Titus to the church at Corinth for that purpose and he sent with him a brother who was recommended and chosen by the churches, so that transparency will be kept and especially that was done by two persons who were known by their good reputation and faithfulness to God and to His church, so that the following will be provided, *“21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.” (2 Corinthians 8:21 KJV)* **What we need to understand here is that to avoid the ministry to be blamed and accused, we need to bear extra pain and ought to do certain things so that the ministry will not be criticized by others. It is not enough to do what is right before**

God, but we need to do what is right in the sight of men, and to take measures that we will not be accused by others.

“4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses.” (2 Corinthians 6:4 KJV) We need to work it out to approve ourselves as ministers, and servants of God. You need to repent of whatever sin you need to repent of, you renounce offences, you correct your mistakes, and work it out to let the light of Christ once again to shine through your life to the people around you. We do that in this manner:

1. ***“in much patience”***: We need to extend our patience and perseverance.
2. ***“in afflictions”***: We need to endure afflictions and trials.
3. ***“in necessities”***: Even when we are in desperate need, we still need to conduct ourselves in a worthy manner.
4. ***“in distresses”***: Even in situations that are beyond our control and capacity still we are called to persevere and continue to serve God.

“5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings.” (2 Corinthians 6:5 KJV)

5. ***“In stripes”***: Accepting to be beaten and not to retaliate.
6. ***“in imprisonments”***: Accepting persecution and even imprisonment if we are faced with.
7. ***“in tumults”***: Tumults are turmoils or challenging trials. Even in turmoils and challenging trials, we are called to keep our ministry and not to leave our position and service.
8. ***“in labours”***: Willing to exert much physical strength whenever is needed.
9. ***“in watchings”***: Living prayerful life and spending good time at the feet of Jesus.
10. ***“in fastings”***: We are called to fast especially in dealing with distresses, turmoils or challenging trials.

“6 By pureness, by knowledge, by long suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned.” (2 Corinthians 6:6 KJV)

11. ***“By pureness”***: By purifying our hearts, purifying our motives and purifying our hands.
12. ***“by Knowledge”***: Certain times when we come to know the truth from God’s Word in the Bible, it make it easier for us to accept of what we are passing through from trials.
13. ***“by long suffering”***: Prolonged trials and our perseverance during such trials will add to our credibility. God will speak to the people in our behalf and God will impress better things about His church and ministry while we prolonged our perseverance under suffering.
14. ***“by kindness”***: There are certain works and services God had prepared for us and we need to do them. Such deeds will take blames away. Not that we justify ourselves, but God will justify us before men in His due time when we obey His instructions and accept to pass joyfully the painful trials that He directed us to pass through and do the works that He wants us to do.

15. ***“by the Holy Ghost”***: We need to trust the Holy Ghost that He will speak on our behalf. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to take us, mold us and use us for His glory alone.
16. ***“by love unfeigned”***: We should have true love and not a mask of hypocrisy. We should do real deeds out of love and good concern for the people.

“7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.” (2 Corinthians 6:7 KJV)

17. ***“By the Word of truth”***: True and honest Word we should preach and teach, and we should continue giving the Word of God, the Rhema message that comes from the Holy Spirit.
18. ***“by the power of God”***: God wants us to rely on His power to achieve things and to accomplish changes.
19. ***“by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left”***: We don’t use weapons in our hands, but we carry the armor of righteousness, in doing what is just and right of what God instructed us to do and through faith in Jesus who died for our sins to give us eternal life.

“8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true.” (2 Corinthians 6:8 KJV)

20. ***“By honour and dishonor”***: Whether we are honored or not, we are called to persevere and do the works and live a righteous life. Even the people will not honor us we still need to do the works of God.
21. ***“by evil report and good report”***: Whether we are reported as good or as evil people, we still need to persevere and go through and do our assignments well. Whatever the people name us, whether good or evil, that shall motivate us more to do what is good and right in the eyes of God.
22. ***“as deceivers, and yet true”***: Even we are labeled as deceivers, we continue to live and behave as true servants of God.

“9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed.” (2 Corinthians 6:9 KJV)

23. ***“As unknown, and yet well known”***: Even to those who are unfamiliar with us, we are still imparting good things and changing the world around us.
24. ***“as dying, and, behold, we live”***: Even we are almost dead physically and has no strength, but we are living and doing great things.
25. ***“as chastened, and not killed”***: Even we are receiving punishment and the affliction from evil men, we still need to live a disciplined life, and alive in proclaiming and living the Word of the Lord.

“10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” (2 Corinthians 6:10 KJV)

26. ***“As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing”***: We train ourselves, even if we are in sad situations, yet we have the joy and rejoice by the Holy Ghost.

27. *“as poor, yet making many rich”*: We might not have much material things, but with the good impartation of God’s Word we make others rich and got relieved from the effect of sins and the hardness of trials.
28. *“as having nothing, and yet possessing all things”*: In material things we might not be having much, but yet we possess many things through faith in God and in hope of all His good promises.

29. *“11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.” (2 Corinthians 6:11 KJV)* Those who does not like us, we still need to open our mouths and speak to them good things, and open our hearts to them with love and kindness.

30. *“12 Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.” (2 Corinthians 6:12 KJV)* We don’t pressurize people, but they are pressurized by their own emotions and desires. We need to understand that certain percentage of our trials and sufferings are due to wrong emotions and wrong desires of people around us, and toward us, due to the Word of God that they received from us and they are not willing to be changed.

“13 Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.” (2 Corinthians 6:13 KJV) In showing them the good example and continue doing the good deeds, we are speaking to them and asking them to let their hearts enlarged, to repent and accept us and the Word of God that we give to them.

My dear and beloved: What we learned today from God’s Word is a real challenge to us. The Word of God should melt us, mold us, and make us to put ourselves in what God wants us to be. Meditate on the message, hear it again, read it again and start to apply it in your life and ministry. *Let us pray . . .*

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the ministry that you entrusted to me and thank you for your Word that teaches me your ways and what you need me to do in the ministry.

Let us confess and renounce our sins. Confess and renounce your selfishness, laziness, your worldliness and your love for material things. Confess and renounce your non willingness to serve and suffer for Christ and help the family of faith. Confess and renounce your envy and jealousy, your wrong motive and your love of money. Confess and renounce your lack of love and compassion to reach the lost souls and give them the gospel. Confess and renounce your disobedience and your non willingness to follow instructions. Confess and renounce your yoked with non believers and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship and your bad example to others. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins, offences and mistakes _____.

Lord cleanse my heart and renew my mind. I am offering the parts of my body as a living sacrifice to serve you and do the work of yours in full as you ordained it to be. Lord give me good health; strength and perseverance to continue to be fruitful and effective till you come and take me. Lord, I thank you and praise you for this Word of yours to me. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and give me the spiritual gifts that I need to go and serve you and spread your Word to the lost.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and my Sisters who repented and committed their lives to the principles of this Word of yours in this message. Lord I pray for them that you will fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the Spiritual gifts that they need to evangelize and to make new disciples. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord make their lives good examples to others, so people around them will be attracted to you and to be part of your Kingdom.

Lord we commit ourselves to reproduce more fruit of the spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, faith, meekness, perseverance, long-suffering and self-control. Lord bless us as a church and bestow on us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and make disciples of all nations. Lord enable us to declare your Word in full to those whom you are sending us to. Lord enable us to evangelize and to reach the lost and new areas with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord help us to plant new Bible studies, new congregations, and to raise up more disciples and workers to serve you. Lord continue to protect us and provide all our needs. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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