

Course 123:
Rewards of the Faithful
An apostolic teaching of the Global School of Ministry - UK

Prologue

One of the things God would have His children do is to simply take Him at His Word and rest on it completely. Almost all the problems which lead humans astray from God arise from attitude to His Word.

Attitude to the Word of God has come under stress from two broad fronts, activated by the same adversary, Satan.

The Religious Right:

On one side of the spectrum is the religious right. These are people who believe God is too lenient and try to “help” Him. They do this by adding tomes of additional regulations for believers to observe before they are accepted by God. The religious right essentially advances the theory that though saved, people in Christ are still sinners who need to do some much religious activities with exactitude before they can be pleasing unto God. The greatest mark of the religious right has been to foster a strange doctrine which essentially requires believers to “mark time” on earth, waiting so to say for when they die before they can enjoy the blessings of God. The religious right glorifies poverty, pain and suffering as the normal portion of those who are holy on this side of eternity. The religious right is filled with people who are racists, ethnic jingoists and plain hypocrites just like the Pharisees who were the religious right in the days of Jesus Christ. Among them today are those who are willing, like the crusaders of old, to physically fight for God and die in the process, believing they will be rewarded with eternal bliss in heaven. The religious zealots who kill and maim those who do not believe or who are not religious enough are in this category.

The Religious Left:

These are those who esteem God as too harsh and therefore try to help by reducing what they deem as the intensity of His Word. Over time, the religious left has coalesced into three broad movements: The first is the Prosperity Movement which ignores the core purpose of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and the whole counsel of God in preference for a narrow focus on financial prosperity for those who claim to be born again. This movement makes a mockery of the new birth by making “success” in material possessions the proof of proximity to God. The second strand is The Pseudo-Kingdom movement which preaches a Kingdom now message which devalues the world to come and therefore negate or deny the reality that Jesus will return to rule and reign in the future dimension of the Kingdom of God right here on planet earth. The third strand is the emerging church movement which has essentially denied the core truths of the Bible branding them as Jewish fables.

Both groups are wrong!

Revelation 22:

17And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

18For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

20He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Those who add to the Word of God are as much at fault and in danger as those who subtract! God does not need help! He wants us to take His Word as it is and to obey in love and with submissive hearts.

Proverbs 30:5-6

5Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

6Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar

This is why one of the greatest needs of the hour is for men and women raised and equipped by God to rightly divide His Word to serve His people. The Word of God is not to be manipulated to convince people to accept personal perspectives of preachers but to present the full counsel of God which is able to save and build up those who are His!

Isaiah 28:10-13

10For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

Introduction: There are Blessings for the Faithful in Time and Eternity!

The Word of God is clear that those who are faithful in their charge will be rewarded in time and eternity. From the Old to the New Covenants, this theme runs deep in the ordinance of God for His human family. It is interesting that even when Adam and Eve had not yet sinned, God laid out a simple principle of reward for obedience and punishment for disobedience in the Book of Genesis.

Genesis 2:

15And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God knew before the dawn of creation how history would unfold!

This course explores the depths of scripture to lay out the glorious blessings God has stored up for His faithful remnant who with a single minded commitment, focus on completion of their assignments on planet earth. This is another intensely practical course. The Lord is releasing this truth to give understanding and quicken the faith of the remnant to the level where they can trust Him for all things which pertain to life and godliness!

The importance of this course lies in the fact that:

Many saints who have been in the depth of fire of poverty, afflictions and suffering need to know that state is not their permanent lot. 1 Peter 5:10

10But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Knowledge of the mind of God paves the way for understanding. Understanding the plan of God is the ground of real faith. As you think in your heart, so are you. If you believe a lie about God and His word, that may become a self evident reality. Many people are suffering untold poverty and affliction of disease today not because of the purpose of God but because the enemy is functioning unhindered, having entered their lives by the permission granted

him. To believe that you were born to suffer, be poor, sick and unloved is to have a negative picture of the redeemed of the Lord. The truth of the plan of God to prosper those who are His as long as they focus on Him and His Kingdom, not wealth and riches is a definite one, not subject to varied interpretations! Matthew 6:33

33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The plain Word of God is that Jesus pronounced an end of Satan's dominion when He gave up the ghost. John 19:30

30When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Praise God also for giving us a sneak peek into how the end time Church Jesus is coming for: RADIANT! That is why He is releasing the Word with such authority and power to sanctify and make the Church to be His ready bride!

Ephesians 5:25-27

25Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

As you know these truths, get ready for the turn around that is your legitimate inheritance from your heavenly Father! He knows what you are passing through. He said in His Word that He will not allow you to suffer and temptation that is greater than you.

1 Corinthians 10:13

13There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

- A Synopsis

We shall cover the course by trusting God to provide answers to these relevant questions:

How should we relate to God: For His own pleasure or because of what He has to give?

What is the God perspective of prosperity and success? How does it differ from the perspective of the World?

What are the specific rewards God promises His faithful servants?

In what ways are these blessings veiled or made manifest through parables?

What happens when the blessings of time do not seem to come? What are we to do?

Delving into the subject matter.

How should we relate to God: For His own pleasure or because of what He has to give?

Many people, including those who are seemingly zealous and love God stumble at this point: the motivation behind outward actions. It is possible to give tithes, offerings and sow seeds for the wrong reasons of instant gratification or even as acts of deceptions! It is possible to be zealous for God with the wrong spirit and attitude!

The Holy Scriptures are filled with documented cases of people who have sought God and even His spiritual gifts for the wrong reasons. A examples few will suffice.

The first saints to die as acts of discipline were in cahoots to deceive leaders over the true worth of their offering. That act of deception was judged because of the principle in Galatians 5:9: a little leaven leavens the whole lump!

Acts 5

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,
2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

In another instance of judgement executed by apostolic authority, a man in the city of Samaria tried to “buy” the Holy Spirit with money!

Acts 8:

9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

22Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

24Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Divine-Human Partnership: ordained for ruling planet earth!

The God of the whole universe owns all that He created including all the mineral resources like Gold, Silver, precious stones, oil and gas. The truth is that He has no need of anything for Himself! He who owns all the cattle on a thousand hills is the El Shaddai – the self sufficient One! He has all the resources He needs to build and enlarge His Kingdom on this side of eternity.

Human beings come into the picture of the building of the Kingdom because God by Himself ordained to rule this planet through partnership with human kind. That partnership was established as a governmental ordinance that is sure and certain.

For this reason, God created man in His own image to operate in the capacity of the measure of divinity by which other creatures and indeed the creation shall be subject.

Genesis 1:26-29

26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

Mankind was created as the assign of God to care for the earth(dress and keep it)!

Genesis 2:15

15And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

It is interesting that God chose heaven for Himself and willingly gave to mankind, this planet as an inheritance!

Psalms 115:16

16The heavens, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

To be called a son of God and heir of His entire inheritance is a glorious privilege!

John 1:11-12

11He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

1 John 3

1Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

The Lord is looking for saints who realize that their highest purpose is to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

John 4:23-24

23But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Such people will serve God with a singleness of purpose, totally sold out to pursuit of His Kingdom and its righteousness. These are the true worshippers to whom God can and will commit the fullness of His resources because their hearts and minds cannot be corrupted or shifted away from Him by wealth and abundance of resources.

Matthew 6:

31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

True worshippers worship God because of His worth; appreciate Him for who He is and are ever thankful for the mercies from Him which sustain us here on planet earth. Gratitude for life, health, strength or wealth received graciously drives them to release words, songs or simply a sense of awe at His glory. For such people what God will give is a secondary issue: The King deserves His glory – notwithstanding the state of our spiritual, emotional, physical or financial well-being! Those who come to this “other-worldly” mindset are “dangerous people”, feared by Satan and his demons. This is because, like Paul, the poster man of the New Covenant of Grace, they have crossed the spiritual Rubicon and cannot be moved away from their dogged pursuit of and clinging unto God by issues on earth or in heaven!

Romans 8:28, 35-39

28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What is the God perspective of prosperity and success? How does it differ from the perspective of the World?

With that foundation cleared, let us now begin to construct the course content. Our starting point will be to have a full understanding of God's perspective of prosperity and success. To do this properly, it is important to first see what the world means by prosperity and success.

What the world means by prosperity and success.

To the world, with its warped values, prosperity is the presence of abundant money and material resources, earned at all costs. Often, people of the world prosper at the expense of their souls. They do not care what they do to get rich – fraud, deception, immoral living and lack of principles. Their ambitions cause their base ambitions to be unleashed. With the right amount of skills, raw intellect and hard work, success in their endeavours comes over time.

The cost however is steep indeed!

1 Timothy 6:3-10

3If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

James 5:1-6

1Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

2Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten.

3Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

4Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

5Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

6Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

The God perspective

In the first place, God has an inside out perspective of prosperity and a holistic view of success. In various ways, God says the same thing to drive home the point that prosperity is not just about unbridled accumulation of money and material goods. It is much more and must encompass all dimensions of life in the present with promise of an assured eternity of bliss with God in the hereafter.

Matthew 6:19-24

19Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

22The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

24No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 16: 26

26For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul

Romans 14:17

17For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost

Secure Promises of God for the faithful

The perspective of God for prosperity and success is hinged on a sure principle: He is the creator, redeemer and King of all who receive His love in Christ Jesus and submit to His Sovereign rule. Once any person is aligned with God on that principle, He or she ceases to be a statistic or unit of census.

The entire life assignment of that being is weighed against the quantum of spiritual, financial resources and social capital (network of relationships, favour with God and people and trust) that is needful to fulfil the specific destiny, life mandate or divine assignment.

In other words, every saint is truly on assignment from God as an agent and ambassador to ensure that the will of God is done on earth as in heaven!

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

17Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20Now 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.

For this kind of assignment, God decorates His earthly ambassadors with all that pertain to life and godliness so that they are effective in representing Him!

2 Peter 1:3-5

3According 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:

4Whereby 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.

Ephesians 1:3-4

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

If you will prosper and succeed according to the will of God, please settle it in your heart that you are not a happenstance, but a very intelligently crafted ambassador of Jesus Christ! That understanding will give you the proper grounding to make God, His Kingdom and agenda your primary delight and pursuit. With that settled, you can proceed to ask, in faith for ALL of the Divine Allocation to fulfil your assignment! Neither Satan nor his demons nor yet evil men and women can withstand you when you stand on this solid ground of faith!

Jeremiah 29:11

11For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Consider these specific promises and definite statements, starting with the original mandate which God gave to man.

Genesis 1:26-29

26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

Genesis 2:15

15And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Job 36:11

If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

Psalms 35:27

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

Psalm 118:25

Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

Psalm 122:7

Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

Jeremiah 33:9

And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Zechariah 1:17

Cry yet, saying, thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

The answer Jesus gave to Peter when He was asked the reward of those who are faithful is very instructive:

Matthew 19:27-29

27Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

This was in line with a core principle of the Kingdom Jesus had established as part of the Sermon on the Mount. There, the principle of divine ownership and responsibility of God as Father over members of His human family was firmly established:

Matthew 6:25-34

25Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Jesus taught saints to ask for what they need daily and specifically, assured that the Heavenly Father would provide. His Fatherhood includes divine responsibility for the temporal needs of His children.

Matthew 6:11

11Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 7:7-11

7Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Have you been faithful in serving the Lord since you believed or since you matured in Christ? Get ready to receive what is freely yours!

- **God: the ultimate motivator who rewards His own with incentives!**

The Context of our rewards.

Jesus Himself situated rewards of the faithful in His epic response to the direct question of Peter which was quoted earlier in this course note. Let us re-enact that scene:

Matthew 19:27-29

27Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Two broad scope of rewards: The Proclamation of the King!

In Matthew 19 verse 20, Jesus categorically asserted that all those who will make the required sacrifices for Him to rule as Sovereign King over their lives, allowing Him to occupy primacy of place before siblings, parents, spouses, children or real estates (which happen to be the chief idols of every age) are assured one hundred fold reward in time and everlasting life in the eternal dimension of the Kingdom of God!

It is absolutely irresponsible for those of us in ministry to think we are holier or more knowledgeable than Jesus, the King! How dare we, for any reason under the sun, devalue, set aside or ignore such an extraordinary Proclamation of the King? How come that we shy away from preaching this all time motivation to live right, choose right and serve right? We have

no reason to take this aspect of the Holy Writ out of circulation simply because we hate what the false prophets who preach prosperity without holiness and Kingdom responsibility have done. We have no reason to concede space to preachers of error, then proceed to throw away the baby of truth with the bathwater of erroneous applications!

Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords is not throwing pearls before swine here. This is serious business! He is laying out a ground norm of the Kingdom: serving the King with singleness of heart, with all sincerity and in truth has rewards in this present life and in eternity. The obverse is also true: those who refuse to serve Him as He prescribes shall one day see the folly of living for Satan and their own ambitions as they shall be cut off from Him forever!

Concerning rewards for obedience and punishment for not engaging in Kingdom business on His own terms, let us take a fresh look at the parable of talents:

Luke 19:11-27

11And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

12He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

14But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

15And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

20And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

21For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

22And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

23Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

24And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

25(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

26For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

27But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

Emulating the Father

In motivating saints to serve with the right heart and focus, Jesus was only emulating the Father Himself. In His relationship with Abraham, we see God at various times motivate His friend to get it right:

Genesis 12:1-3

1Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 15:1-6

1After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

2And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

3And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

4And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

5And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 17:1-11

1And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

2And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

3And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

4As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

5Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

6And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

7And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

8And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

9And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

10This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

11And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

The ultimate passage is the whole of Genesis chapter 22. Please study it diligently to see that God has never deviated from the pattern of offering incentives and rewards to His saints on earth!

Very often, the flesh can cause us to skim the surface of scripture. But we must form the habit of digging deep to mine out the gold that is embedded in its depths. Let us understand that Jesus Himself was motivated by the Father to stay the course when it appeared all was lost. These three scriptures bear this truth out:

Luke 22:41-44

41And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,
42Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

43And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

44And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Matthew 27:46

46And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Hebrews 12:2

2Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The joy that was set before Jesus on conclusion of the assignment motivated Him to press on, even when it was not convenient; when pain wracked His physical body and rent His soul. When Jesus remembered the outcome of His mission: redemption of all who would believe and their translation as members of the family of God, He was strengthened

We too are encouraged to get past the infirmities of the flesh, lay aside weights and besetting sins to press into the realm of exaltation God is calling us into with Christ as our example.

Hebrews 12

1Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The point is this: it is part of the unsearchable ways of God to motivate us with what seems right in His own sight to stay the course!

Teachers and preachers must do well to dig out the secure promises of God, allow the Holy Spirit to breath upon them and serve it to the saints in the right context. With the huge winds of adversity blowing across the world today, saints need to be reminded of the rewards of the present age and of eternity which are embedded in this gospel of the Kingdom to which we are called. Even Jesus Himself did likewise when He appeared to John on the Island of Patmos to dictate His epic instructions to the seven churches of Asia Minor. Several times, Jesus used the words "to him that overcomes", I will give...

... Have you been faithful in serving the Lord since you believed or since you matured in Christ? Get ready to receive what is freely yours! Jesus is beautifying His Church – including your spirit, soul and body, finances and destiny ahead of His imminent return as Ephesians 5;26, 27 says. This is why He is pouring out His Word with intensity to renew your mind and transform your heart. Believe the report of the Lord and reject every situation that disfigures your identity in Him!