

God's Work Through Us

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I. Introduction.

A. It is good to be reminded of truths that we have learned through the years. (Romans 15:14-15; 2 Peter 1:12)

B. Text: Ephesians 3:7-8.

C. Paul recognized that it was his privilege through God's grace to be in ministry.

II. Grace is God's favor through Christ to people who deserve His wrath.

A. We deserve God's wrath.

B. Through Christ, we are not only spared God's wrath but also earn God's favor. (Ephesians 1:3)

C. We are allowed to participate in His kingdom using our gifts by God's grace. (Ephesians 3:8; 2 Corinthians 4:1)

1. Our gifts are truly that- gifts, not earned by our faithfulness.

2. A spiritual gift is a trust for which we are accountability.

3. We do not earn the privilege of ministry, which is good news. We are both unworthy and inadequate for ministry apart from God's grace. (2 Corinthians 2:15-16; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10)

4. We need God's grace, both in the sense of His undeserved favor and in the sense of His strength. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

5. We have financial success through God's grace and are accountable to be diligent, generous, and responsible for our material wealth. (1 Chronicles 29:15ff; Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Psalm 127:1; 2 Corinthians 9:8)

III. Whatever we give of our time, our talents, and our treasures, let it be from heart of gratitude for what God has done for us. (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to be reminded of truth that we have already learned?

2. Why is it good news that we do not earn or deserve the privilege of ministering for God?

3. Why is it important to give to God of our time, talents, and treasure from a grateful heart? What other attitudes could motivate us to give? Where is your heart in your attitude toward giving?
