

## Ministry Part 3

**2. Diakonia:** “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 always 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) The Greek word for ‘ministry’ in verse 3 is ‘Diakonia’. Apostle Paul here was dealing with an important issue that the ministry should not be blamed and people start 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 to reset things back to what cause the blame to be removed.

**“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. Let us remember that we are a new creation, **“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, appealing to the people in the name of Christ to reconcile to God, **“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)

**“(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 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.

**“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 taken place.

The Greeks word used for ‘blamed’, is ‘momaomai’, and it means to blame, find fault with, mock at. So basically there is no sin from the church side, but people would pick anything

against the church trying disqualify the church. Why? To justify their disobedience, and their non willingness to abide with the truth.

The word momaomai 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, **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. It seemed there was criticism to what he was doing, either part of disobedience and non willingness, or part of anger, or part of envy and jealousy, or part of immaturity and lack of knowledge in God’s word, or part of misunderstanding and insufficient communication, or lack of trust in the people who were conducting that ministry. There might be other reason behind the blames, but the point that we need to stress here is that the blame was not due to fault in Paul and the brethren who were with him. But he took that seriously because the ministry will be ultimately blamed. Apostle Paul took certain measure to send Titus for that mission and sent with him a brother who was recommended and chosen by the churches, so that transparency will be kept and especially was done by more than one person who are know by their good reputation and faithfulness to God and to His church, so that the following will be provided, **“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

**“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. We repent of our sins and renounce offences, correct mistakes, and worked it out to let the light of Christ to shine through our lives to the people around us. We do that in this manner:

1. In much patience: Extending our patience and perseverance.
2. In affliction: Enduring affliction and trials.
3. In necessities: Even when we are in desperate need, we still 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.

**“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 imprisonment even if we are faced with.
7. In tumults, even in turmoil, 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 time at the feet of Jesus.
10. In fastings: We are called to fast especially in dealing with distresses and tumult (turmoils).

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

11. By pureness: Purifying our hearts, purifying our motives and purifying our hands.
12. By Knowledge: Certain things when we come to know the truth from God’s word in the bible, it make easier to us to accept of what we are passed 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 are prolonged under suffering.
14. By kindness: There are certain works and services, God had prepared for us and 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.
15. By the Holy Ghost: We need to trust the Holy Ghost that He will speak on our behalf.
16. By love unfeigned: True love and no mask of hypocrisy. We should do real deeds out of love and concern to the people.

***“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, by 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 armour of righteous, doing what is just and right.

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

20. By honour or dishonour: Whether we are honoured or not, we are called to persevere and do the work and live righteous life.
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 names us, that shall motivate us more to do what is good and right in the eyes of God.
22. Even we are labeled as deceivers, we continue to live and behave as true servants of God.

***“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 effect 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 of man, we are still alive, proclaiming the Lord is good.

***“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 situation, 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.
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 His promises.

***“O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.” (2 Corinthians 6:11 KJV)***

29. Those who does not like us, we still needs to open our mouths and speak to them good things, and open our hearts to them with love and kindness.

***“Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.” (2 Corinthians 6:12 KJV)***

30. We don’t pressurize people but, but they are pressurized by their own emotions and desires.


***“Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.” (2 Corinthians 6:1-13 KJV)*** In showing them the good example and he good deeds, we are speaking to them and asking them to let their heart enlarged and accept us.

***My dear and beloved:*** What we learn today from God’s Word is a real challenge to us. The Word of God melt us, and make us put ourselves in what God wants us to be. Meditate on the message and start to apply in your life and ministry as you agree to pray.

***My Prayer:*** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learn from your Word. I repent of the following sins, offences and mistakes \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord cleanses my heart and renews 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 gives me good health; strength and perseverance to continue to be fruitful and effective till you come and take me. I thank you and praise you this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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**Vol. 19**

**Issue 9**

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