

***The Duties of The Priest  
The Mission and the Work of The Church  
Part 30***

***“But you are the chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)***

Ministry flow from good character and the attitude of the worker determine the outcome of his ministry and service unto God. 2Timothy 2:1-26 supplied us good material that will help us to understand how our behaviours and actions should be tailored to the need of achieving successful and prosperous ministry.

***<sup>1</sup>You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*** Let the grace of God makes you strong and change your bad characters and enable you to cooperate with God. Don't abuse the grace of God by living in sin, but use the grace to build in you a character that is fruitful and effective in service.

***<sup>2</sup>And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*** Be like a teacher who patiently teach others and do your best to feed the people under your care with God's word, and to continue to feed them until they are strong and mature disciples.

***<sup>3</sup>Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*** Accept challenges and suffering, stand firm and don't escape. God wants you to fight the good fight of faith as David fought and overcame Goliath.

***<sup>4</sup>No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.*** Don't get yourself involves in fights and quarrels, earning more money, loving of money, involving in worldly things, parties, invitations and going along friends. All these should be away from your life.

***<sup>5</sup>Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.*** In God's service follow the rules that the word of God dictates on all of us. Quality is required in God's service. Abide with that please.

***<sup>6</sup>The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.*** Be hard working, not lazy. Like a good farmer, persevere in struggles until fruit will appear in your service and you will be the first one to enjoy that fruit in material and spiritual blessings. Ask God to open your eyes to see the blessing of God upon your life as you serve Him.

***<sup>7</sup>Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.*** God's word and the Holy Spirit will explain to you more and in detail how you can serve God and produce fruit.

***<sup>8</sup>Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel.*** Be ready with the message that suite the people that you are reaching. You need to prepare a particular message that you will deliver to bring salvation in the lives of the people.

***<sup>9</sup>for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.*** The message of the gospel that we need to live so to bring out the right model may caused us isolation and separation from the style of the world and even persecution, ***“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2Timothy 3:12)***

***<sup>10</sup>Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.*** Be willing to accept suffering, discipline yourself, be willing to be humiliated, and accept persecution for the sake of others to come to know Christ and got saved.

***<sup>11</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him.*** You will truly live with him when you are willing to lose your life for the sake of Christ. ***“Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39)***

***<sup>12</sup>if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.*** Endure the hardship of the task and you will receive authority from the LORD. If you quit He will disown you.

***<sup>13</sup>if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.*** At this point, kneel down and ask God to forgive you the moments that you were unfaithful to Him, and commit yourself once again to serve Him.

***<sup>14</sup>Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.*** All over again follow the above and the coming principles in serving God. Avoid controversies about words, ***“But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.” (Titus 3:9)***

<sup>15</sup> ***Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*** You must know your bible well and how you find the Scripture that fit for each and every situation, and you should be skillful in presenting facts that describe the truth and give practical way for Christian Holy living.

<sup>16</sup> ***Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.*** Be careful not to go and fall in the trap of arguing with false teachers.

<sup>17</sup> ***Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus.*** As they were around Paul and Timothy they will be also around you. So avoid them at all cost. Avoid those, <sup>18</sup> ***who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.*** Their false teaching is a sign for you that they are not the true people of God. So you don't need to defend yourself but continue to reach others with the gospel and help them to receive salvation and God's blessings.

<sup>19</sup> ***Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."*** This how will know the true people of God: they will not continue to sin, but are willing to repent and turn away from doing evil.

<sup>20</sup> ***In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use.*** Chose to be a noble vessel, in order to be used for the noble purpose of God.

<sup>21</sup> ***Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.*** As you cleanse yourself from ignoble things (laziness, lies, watching TV and the like, gossips, anger, love of money, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc.) then you are no more a disposable vessel but a noble one in the hand of the master.

<sup>22</sup> ***Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*** Avoid the impulsive evil desires of youth and be away from wrong company, and draw near to God by being with the right people of the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> ***Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.*** Don't argue at all, and avoid that totally.

<sup>24</sup> ***And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.*** We who serve the LORD we should not quarrel or involve in fight. We deal with those who oppose us in the following way:

A- ***Must not be quarrelsome:*** Somebody do you bad, don't do to him bad.

B- ***Must be kind to everyone:*** Ask God to give you wisdom of how to be kind to those who are bad to you. ***"If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink."*** (Proverbs 25:21)

C- ***Able to teach,*** <sup>25</sup> ***Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.*** Ask God to give you wisdom and skill how to teach the people with whom you are struggling. By actions and if necessary by word.

D- ***Not resentful,*** Keep always your heart clean until they are aware of their sins, <sup>26</sup> ***and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*** If you are able to swallow your pride there is a victory awaiting for you.

**My dear and beloved:** Jesus said to us in His word, ***"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."***(Matthew 10:16) From the three animals we can learn good characters that will build us to have good and effective ministry.

A- ***Sheep:*** Humility will enable you to accept suffering including humiliation, insult and persecution.

B- ***Snakes:*** The Wisdom of God spares us troubles and help us to handle people and circumstances in a proper way.

C- ***Doves:*** Be innocent and keep your heart clean even to those who harmed you.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following bad attitude \_\_\_\_\_.* Lord I need your grace to have the good characters that will enable me to serve you in more fruitful way and presenting your word in my life to others. Help me Lord to do that, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.