



***The Stewardship of Excellence***  
***Presented by Bishop Parnell M. Lovelace, Jr.,***  
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**Sermon Notes from August 17, 2008**

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (New King James Version)**

**1** Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

**2** Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. **3** But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

**4** For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. **5** Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

**Our God IS Excellence!**

**Psalm 8 (New King James Version)**

**1** O LORD, our Lord,

How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth,  
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

**2** Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants

You have ordained strength,  
Because of Your enemies,  
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

**3** When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,

The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

**4** What is man that You are mindful of him,

And the son of man that You visit him?

**5** For You have made him a little lower than the angels,

And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

**6** You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;

You have put all *things* under his feet,

**7** All sheep and oxen—

Even the beasts of the field,

**8** The birds of the air,

And the fish of the sea

That pass through the paths of the seas.



9 O LORD, our Lord,  
How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth!

### **2 Corinthians 4:7 (New King James Version)**

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

### **Ephesians 2:4-10 (New King James Version)**

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### **Matthew 25:14-29 (New King James Version)**

14 "For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap



where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. **27** So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

**29** 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

### **A Prophetic Word for WCC**

#### **Ephesians 3:14-21 (New King James Version)**

**14** For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, **16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, **17** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—**19** to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**20** Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, **21** to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.