

receiving is also blessed. It is blessed to be the beneficiaries of the grace of giving!

In fact, Biblical Theological Seminary stands as a testimonial to the grace of giving! Those who give to the Lord's work here are blessed!

And I'm sure that all of us have personally experienced benefit after benefit from the Lord through those who have shared in the grace of giving.

But if we are to benefit most fully from the grace of giving, we must also learn the grace of receiving.

Some people have made it a rule of their life never to accept what they don't earn or can't pay for themselves. They say, "I don't accept charity!" Such persons would seem to have difficulty accepting the grace of God, and difficulty receiving God's love as expressed tangibly through fellow human beings.

Then there are those who always want to pay back in full for whatever is given them. If someone gives them a gift, they feel they must in turn give a gift of at least equal value. Again, how can they understand the grace of God who gives freely to those who cannot earn it, deserve it, or pay for it?

Still others have developed the habit of receiving gifts in a perfunctory, matter-of-fact manner, without seeing the need of expressing appreciation or thanks. Such an attitude is of course reprehensible, and seems to reflect one of the chapel sayings of Dr. Bob Jones Sr.: "When gratitude dies on the altar of a man's heart, that man is well-nigh hopeless."

I believe that as believers we need to develop the grace of receiving. We need to learn how to receive. Graciously, gracefully, and with grace. We need to learn how to accept gifts from the hand of God, as given through the hands of others, and to praise God for both His gracious gifts and the