

Jan 13-1935.

Hymns
16
338
130

Stewards of God's Grace -
(Muffatto)
1 Peter 4:10 "You must serve one another, each with the talent he has received, as efficient stewards of God's varied grace."

I sat in my office ^{one} this morning ^{in P.P.} and listened to the wee bird chirping its faint song nearby. Just beyond were the bigger birds in loud songs, the chickens growing and cackling on the opposite hill - and you students laughing and talking. The African Tulip was red in ^{a mantle} blossoms. The royal palms stood like sentinels ~~along the way~~ guarding some royal personage along his way. In this scene

surroundings of - the hills, the valleys, the trees, the birds, song and laughter, ~~that~~ ^{spoke} speak to us of the present, and remind us of the ages in the past when God alone looked down upon the white lime rocks of your mountain. They should also bring ^{this year} their message of the future. God has been so good to us. He gives us so many and so much of His varied graces. These ^{beautiful things in which to live} beautiful hills for our home. The best of associates for our companions. Young people and teachers with but one purpose - to improve God's varied grace and to fit-

ourselves for efficient- (2)
service in God's Kingdom of
men. To those who have

eyes to see and ears to hear,
life here in the ^{Texas} Polytechnic
resounds with music and
~~is redolent~~ ^{not only redolent} with flowers
but ^{also} speaks to him of the
ever present Father above
who has provided it all
for our benefit.

There are people however who
walk over the most interesting
rocks and earth formation—
and it means nothing to
them. They see only the muddy
shoes, and soiled clothing.
They hate the rocks because they
wear holes in their shoes.

To the real, thinking Christian
all nature is God's varied
grace; all kindness and
goodness of man, is the
expression of God's varied grace.

I learn first from all
this natural beauty that there
is no jealousy among God's
creation. The orange puts
on her white robe out in
the sunshine; the coffee tree
her ^{white} robe under the shade
of the guava tree. The mango
arrays itself in green and
brown leaves. The poinsettia
blooms during xmas; the
flamboyanet shoots forth its
scarlet robe in June. Yet
there is ^{no} clashing jealousies

in nature. Quite the contrary. ⁽³⁾
The trees push each other up-
ward. The tallest trees grow
where the forest is the thickest.
A tree cannot survive if it
refuses to grow up higher.

And so this is what we
need to learn this ^{Spring} new year
of ¹⁹⁴² 1935. First we are to have
the desire to grow upward, to
push others, our companions
up to higher things, to nobler
thoughts, to richer inheritances,
to better services and to
holier aspirations. My!
oh my! What a field of service
in this ~~set~~ efficient
work of God's varied grace!
You have a fountain of life

out of which God's varied
grace^{flow}. This fountain never
runs dry, Reach down in
God's varied grace. Take
hold of the cheer, the comfort,
the hope and strengthening
faith that you need. Let go
the fragrance of good
cheer, encouragement and
love, till all your friends
catch the spirit of Christ.

There are many who have
not an assured confidence
in God, who are not absolutely
certain that God is leading
them. Many fear the future
and run from the present
because they have not the
certainty that comes as a

result of conflict in the ⁽⁴⁾
discharge of duty in the service
of faith. There are many
who have not learned to
dedicate their lives daily
to the doing of God's will. To
be cheerful, happy and well-
^{ful}lanced you have to lose
your will in God's will accord-
ing to God's word not according
to man's theory.

We must, during this year,
learn to walk forward not
backward, to take up arms
against wrong not to run
from it.

Confidence in God founded,
rooted and grounded upon
the right understanding of God's

word is the fountain of perennial
good cheer and hope which
gives us courage to undertake
all things. This confidence
comes only from reliance
of the God's word in your en-
deavor to accomplish the
impossible. The power
back of the Christian is omnip-
otent. Power is ^{not} of God's
varied graces. ~~It is like powder~~
^{Powder devised by man}
may be used to send a
cannon ball a hundred miles
through the air ~~and~~ ^{to} destroy
a church and innocent
people. As it may dislocate
granite stones of a mountain
and make it possible for
these stones to be erected

into a great cathedral. (5)

You are a steward of God's
grace - power - Are you wasting
that power or using it.

You are in this world to gain
victories - great victories
such as astounding unbelievers.

Are you doing it? There
is no room nor place for
ultimate defeat of the
Christian, because he
allows no room for jealousies,
for envy, for contentions.

The dynamic Christian dispels
wrong, inspires cheer, hope
and love.

Every body has his trials
and troubles. As a rule
the one who is doing the

least, the inefficient service
is the one who feels he is being
wronged and abused by others.
It is generally the student
who has done poor work
or who has failed to pay
his bills, who drops out
at the end of a Semester. Good
students, faithful in meeting
all their obligations remain
and receive the diploma
at Commencement. There
is only one way to live and
that is to meet our problems
daily, face to face, and
to solve them.

Troubles are about the size of
the individual's imagination.
It is a sensation of a lifetime

to meet our difficulties and ⁽⁴⁾
to overcome them. It is like
a child who pushes out for
the first time on a swing
that carries him across
a high and dangerous
ravine. He quivers ^{run}
all over him for one or two
times. After that he knows
he is coming back safe.
Then it is that joy of ^{suspending} ~~hanging~~
over the dangerous space
below thrills him. So it is
with the experience in
Trials. It ~~is~~ sometimes
appears that the early ones
courted dangers. They
had learned that God
would never fail them.

Our troubles will bring us an experience of assured confidence in God's varied grace to keep us.

How are you going at things? You will never make good at any thing, this year, unless you are willing to throw your whole self—physical, mental and spiritual into the thing you ought to do.

With all of God's varied grace, ~~is~~ evident on all the natural world about us and impelling our higher motives in us, we should find ourselves with renewed courage every day. God's grace is not all

in the natural world. We see it daily in the eyes, and smiles of Christians. We hear it in the song and noble words of his heart. We feel it in the hearty handshake and ennobling service he renders to his fellowman. We catch ^{it} in his spirit of love, in his willingness to forgive, to help and to pray.

Let us go back to the trees and flowers. They are varied, in size, shape, color, fragrance, utility and duration of life.

But all unite in silent praise to the God who created them and to man who develops

them. Man as part of God's grace in creation is most varied, in abilities, in talents, in tastes and utility. But man should be united in his praise and service to God not only in the hour's church service but in the duration of his allotted life on earth. This grace of God is what makes life worth while. It can be found in superabundance by those who will dedicate their life to God and seek the means of reviving strength that comes from study of God's word and communion with God in service to man.