"STEWARDSHIP/WITNESS SENTENCES"
OCTOBER 2014
Series A

OCTOBER 5 **PROPER 22**

MATTHEW 21:43 *"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits."* The Pharisees were not bearing fruit. Though they were faithful to the letter of the Law in keeping the Sabbath, tithing, and all the rest: they neglected the heart of God's will. The grace of God belongs at the center. Our giving and all our other good works flow forth from receiving God's grace and living in that grace on a daily basis.

Witness: Do not let earthly possessions take over your life. Pursue love, godliness, faith, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith.

OCTOBER 12 **PROPER 23**

Matthew 22:5 *"But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business."* The invitation to join God in His feast and in His work is easily ignored. The rest of life seems so much more pressing, and we tend to think that there will be another time when we can catch back up with God. But what joys are we missing when we set aside God's invitation to join Him in His plans and purposes? What inheritance are we trading for the world's bowl of pottage?

Witness: God gives us the boldness, power, and love to testify and witness about Him. Through His grace we are able to suffer for the Gospel's sake.

OCTOBER 19 **PROPER 24**

MATTHEW 22:21 Then He said to them, *"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Ceasar's, and to God the things that are God's."* So what is Jesus saying? Doesn't everything belong to God' Yes – and God has a place for everything. Some of what He gives us goes to Caesar. Some must come back to the work of His Church. And some goes to support the families He has given us. All belongs to God – and He has work for us to do with what He has given us in the Home, in the church, and in Society.

Witness: All Scripture is God-breathed and thoroughly equips us for every good work. It is our charge to testify and with great patience and instruction. When evil times come, remain steadfast.

OCTOBER 26 **REFORMATION DAY**

JOHN 8:36 *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* Despite the false charges brought against him, Luther said that he was "the apostle of good works." For only in being set free by the Gospel can we do good works. Jesus has set us free: His blood washes away our sins and now we stand before God as His beloved children, invited to live our lives to His glory for the good of His kingdom.

Witness: Celebrate the Reformation! We are made right with God in Jesus Christ, our Savior apart from observing the law. What a gift! We are free to minister to others.