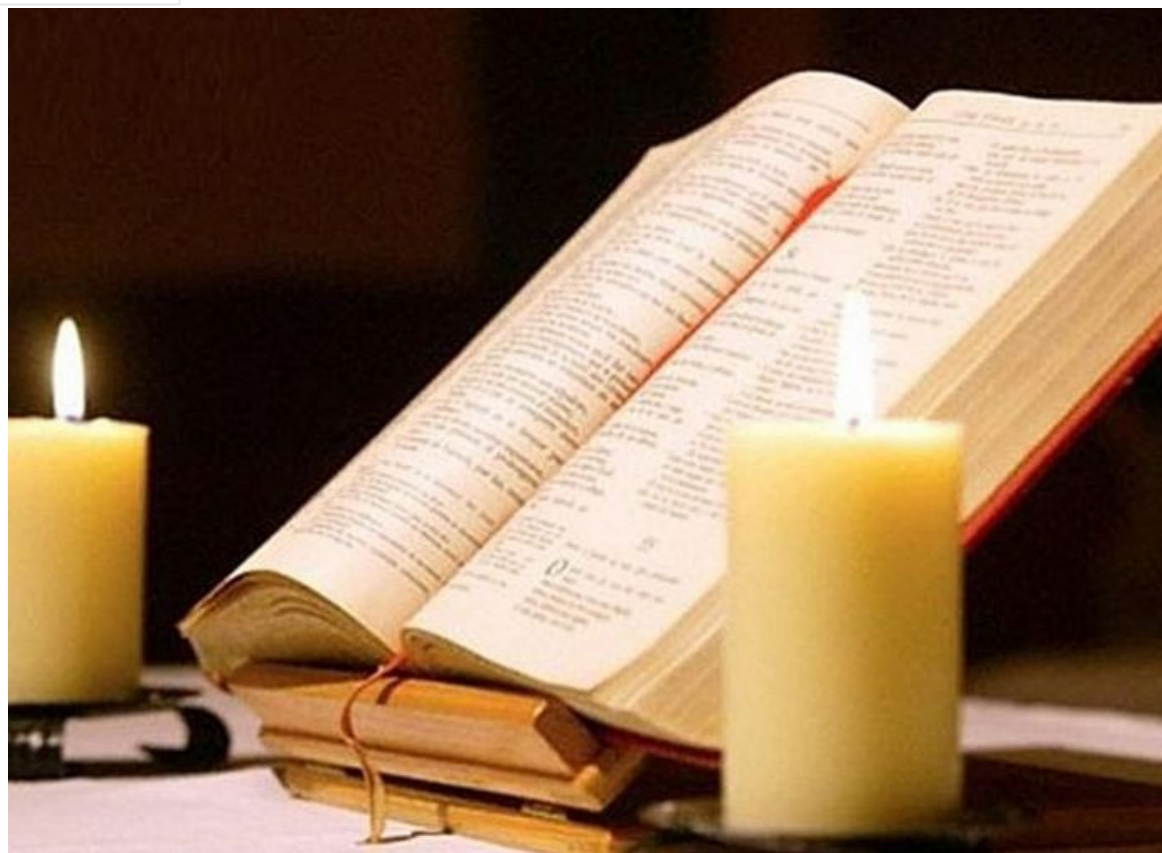


GOSPEL PEARLS

Everything is the Grace of God

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Jesus said to his disciples. "As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'" Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not

welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. (Matthew 10: 7-15)

To underscore that everything is a gift of God's Grace, Jesus advises His apostles not to rely only on material security. Furthermore, Jesus said the results of their mission should not be measured in human terms. To protect us from pride and vainglory, God often wills that in our missions there are sowers and reapers. We must always remember that as Christians we are asked to fight the good fight with faith, yet our victory belongs to God, and in the ways and time He will wills it to be.