

and must be deemed shameful and disgraceful. As the righteous community of God, we must reject gain from extortion (Isaiah 33:15-16) and we must never make friends with “dishonest wealth” or mammon (Luke 16:1-13). From a culture of corruption and impunity, let us rebuild and enhance the culture of righteousness and servanthood which is the only acceptable way of life of a Christian as we **“pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”**

Our Gospel passage last Sunday from Luke 16:19-31 tells us of the **“rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table.”**

Indeed, while the massive theft of the peoples’ moneys are being used to support a life of luxury, millions of our people are mired in hopelessness and poverty.

Part of transformation towards the culture of righteousness is the continuing denunciation of that situation where a few have all the wealth to themselves while the multitude wallow in poverty. This is not what God intended for this world. We must remember that the gift of material resources in this world is not unlimited. Our world has finite resources and this is intended to be shared by everyone. When one person corners a huge part of this finite resource, many others are bound to have less or none at all.

For those who earn wealth through honest means and by the sweat of their brows and the blessings of their intellect, therefore, let us take heed of Ephesians 4:28, **“you must work, doing something useful with your own hands, so that you may have something to share with those in need.”** The purpose of earning wealth through honest means is so that we have something to share with others.

Remember that what we share should not be a mere token but we must share of ourselves. Just like our Lord Jesus Christ who sacrificed and shared his life so that we may have life eternal, we sacrifice of ourselves so that others may be uplifted in life. This is the culture of servanthood that our Lord has completely lived out and which we must also embrace and practice.