

“THE WORK OF THE LORD”

1 Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

INTRODUCTIONS

- Notice the words: “The work of the Lord.” The Lord’s work is the oldest work, it is the greatest work, it is the grandest work, it is the only work, the fruits of which, last forever!
- It is inspiring to know that God is a Worker. Genesis tells us that after 6 days of creative labor, God rested on the seventh day. Jesus said, “My Father worked before me and I work.” (John 5:17) Jesus and His Father were workers. Jesus glorified the commonplace. He was a carpenter. He knew what it was to take a rough piece of wood and create a work of art from it. It was work!
- He continues to work on our behalf seated at the Father’s right hand.
- Our text tells us that we can join with God in His work.
- Notice the truths compacted together in this one dynamic capsule in V. 58:

I. THE TRUTH OF OUR ASSOCIATION.

“My beloved brethren”

- A. As “brethren” we have the same Father.
- B. As “brethren” we are in the same family.
- C. As “brethren” we are part of the same force – work force!

II. THE TRUTH OF OUR ASSIGNMENT.

“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding”

- A. “Be steadfast” – “To pursue a given course without swerving.”
- B. “Immovable” – “To remain in a fixed position without wavering.”
- C. “Always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

How do we abound? By being Spirit filled! There is the Inflow of Spirit; The Overflow of Spirit; the Outflow of Spirit. When we are over-flowing and out-flowing we are abounding!

III. THE TRUTH OF OUR ASSURANCE.

“Your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” We are assured:

- A. That God takes notice of our labor. Giving a “cup cold water” or being a “Doorkeeper in house of Lord.” etc.
- B. That no energy is wasted when we labor for Lord. (We may be tired “in” the Lord’s work, but not tired “of” the Lord’s work!)
- C. That there are no failures if we do God’s work, in God way, by God’s power and for God’s glory!

- D. That God rewards His workers. "Behold I come quickly and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be." (Rev.22:12)

CONCLUSION

1. One of the most invigorating and elevating statements in the Bible is the statement in I Cor. 3:9 "We are laborers together with God." Another translation renders the statement: "We are God's fellow workers."
2. Can you think of anything more exhilarating than to be selected by God to be on His work crew? To be on His team? To put human hands with Divine hands to work, to construct, to help, to heal, to lift? This is called the Divine /human Cooperative!

Are we cooperating with God? Are we Steadfast? Immovable? Are we always abounding?

3. It is a satisfying experience to work with other human beings in a worthwhile endeavor. How much more satisfying it is to have the privilege of working with the Creator of the universe, the Author and Finisher of our faith!
4. How is your work ethic? Are you a "clock watcher"? God's work is not drudgery, it is a delight! God's best workers are "steadfast, immovable and always abounding!"
5. If you are on God's pay-roll, you will not get paid every Friday, but you will get paid for God keeps good records and there will be PAY DAY SOMEDAY!

ILLUST. In Italy a tour guide was taking sightseers on a tour of a great cathedral. As he led the group from place to place a ragged little girl followed. As the guide pointed out various works of art or an interesting architectural wonder he would describe it in detail. At the conclusion of his talk the little girl, who had been following the group would add, "And I helped build this church."

At first the guide and his group simply looked at the little girl and ignored her. But as they went from place to place she kept following and at every stop on the tour, when the guide would finish his remarks, she would add, "And I helped build this church."

Finally after one of her claims that she had helped build the cathedral, the guide snapped at her and said, "Little girl, you are a nuisance! You did not help build this cathedral. Now run along!"

The little girl was not to be denied. She replied, "I did too help build this church! I carried water for my Dad who laid the stones!" No worker or work is insignificant or unimportant in the work of the Lord.

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