ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD
I Cor. 15:58
Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Living the life of a Christian is a life of WORK.
   (1) Phil. 2:12
   (2) Eph. 2:10
   (3) Heb. 6:10
   (4) Matt. 9: 37 - 38
   (5) I Cor. 3:9; II Cor. 6:1

2. All of us sing from time to time: "I Want to Be a Worker".

3. The work of the Lord involves the greatest privileges, responsibilities and rewards.

I. THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE WORK

1. The admonition is to "My beloved brethren" -- I Cor. 15:58
   (1) It is not to elders only, though they must set the example -- I Pet. 5:3
   (2) It is not to deacons only, though deacon means "servant".
   (3) It is not to the preacher only, though he has work to do -- II Tim. 2:15; II Tim. 4:5; Acts 20:20

2. The New Testament teaches every Christian must be a worker.
   (1) Every member of the Jerusalem church was a worker -- Acts 8:4
   (2) The parable of the Talents teaches that all are to work -- Matt. 25: 14 - 30
   (3) The church as a Body -- Rom. 12: 4 - 12; I Cor. 12:14; Eph. 4:16

3. There will be differences of ability, but no exceptions - all are to work.

II. THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WORK

1. One must love God and Christ -- Matt. 22: 37 - 38; John 14:15
2. One must love the church -- I Pet. 2:17 -- "love the brotherhood"
3. One must love the lost -- Rom. 10: 1
4. One must love the truth -- II Thess. 2:10
5. One must have convictions -- Phil. 1:27; II Cor. 4:13
6. One must have ZEAL -- Tit. 2:14
   (1) Zeal for the Lord is impossible without strong faith and convictions.
III. THE CONSTANCY OF THE WORK

1. The religion of Christ is the religion of ALWAYS:
   (1) Be ALWAYS ready to give an answer -- I Pet. 3:15
   (2) ALWAYS obey -- Phil. 2:12
   (3) "Rejoice in the Lord always" -- Phil. 4:4
   (4) Phil. 1:27
   (5) II Tim. 4:2

2. Spasmodic service is NOT acceptable to the Lord -- Acts 2:42

3. A lack of constancy in service to God means we are not dependable.

IV. THE FERVOR OF THE WORK

1. The Greek word translated "Bounding" means "to excel; to be over and above; to be preeminent"

2. The Christian’s service must be abounding service.
   (1) We should never be satisfied with present attainments in the Lord's work -- always striving to grow -- II Pet. 3:18
   (2) Abounding service is willing service -- II Cor. 8:12; 8:5; II Cor. 12:15
   (3) Abounding service is fervent service -- Rom. 12:11; Col. 3:23
   (4) Abounding service is service from the heart -- Eph. 6:6; Rom. 6:17
   (5) Abounding service is first place service -- Matt. 6:33

V. THE MOTIVES FOR THE WORK

1. The Resurrection - "Wherefore" A.S.V. (I Cor. 15:58) connects with the preceding verses.
   (1) The entire chapter is a discussion of the resurrection and immortality.
      1. The proof of the resurrection -- the resurrection of Christ -- I Cor. 15:12 ff
      2. Consequences if NO resurrection -- all in vain -- I Cor. 15:14 - 19
      3. Nature of resurrected body -- incorruptible and glorious -- I Cor. 15:35 - 49
   (2) In view of the fact that there will be a life beyond this work! The future life is REASON for all to abound in the work of the Lord.

2. The Final Judgment
   (1) "Forasmuch" introduces the day of reckoning -- I Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:10
   (2) The Judgment day will be a day of accounting -- II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12; Rom. 14:12; Heb. 9:27
   (3) The Judgment day will be a day of reward -- Gal. 6:9; II Tim. 4:8; Matt. 25:34
   (4) The Judgment day will be a day when God will sentence the disobedient
      1. Matt. 25: 41, 46
      2. Matt. 7:23
VI. THE NATURE OF THE WORK

1. This is not included in the text.

2. The work of the Lord is the work He has commanded us to do -- Matt. 7: 21 - 23; II Tim. 3: 16 - 17

3. The work of the Lord is:
   (1) Evangelism -- Mark 16: 15 - 16; Acts 8:4
   (2) Edification -- Acts 20:32; Matt. 28:20
   (3) Benevolence -- I Tim. 5:16

CONCLUSION

1. Abounding in the work of the Lord means joy and happiness here, and heaven hereafter -- II Pet. 1: 10 - 11

2. Let us examine our service to God and ask ourselves, "Am I abounding in the work of the Lord?"

3. Those not in the Lord's church cannot work for Him -- I urge you now to obey the gospel and go to work -- Phil. 2:12; I Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:10

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