

“Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord”

I Corinthians 15:58

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Christian life is a life of WORK.
 - a. Man must labor to reap the harvest – Matt. 9: 37 – 38.
 - b. Man must labor in the Vineyard – Matt. 20: 1 – 16.
 - c. “*We are laborers together with God*” – I Cor. 3:9.
2. The work of the Lord involves the greatest privileges, responsibilities, and rewards.

I. THIS TEXT TEACHES EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST BE A WORKER

- a. It is to “*My beloved brethren*” – I Cor. 15:58.
- b. The parable of the wise and foolish virgins teaches this – Matt.25: 1 – 13.
- c. The parable of the talents teaches this – Matt. 25: 14 – 30.
- d. The church as a body teaches this – Rom. 12: 4 – 8.

II. THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WORK

- a. Conviction – steadfast and unmoveable.
 - i. Eph. 6:14
- b. Without strong faith and conviction there can be no ZEAL.

III. THE WORK OF THE LORD IS CONSTANT

- a. The religion of Christ is the religion of always:
 - i. Col. 4:6.
 - ii. Phil. 4:4
 - iii. Phil. 2:12
 - iv. I Pet. 3:15
- b. To work always means to “*be urgent in season and out of season*” – 2 Tim. 4:2.
- c. Spasmodic service is not acceptable to the Lord.
 - i. “Always” means – six days plus Sunday.
- d. A lack of constant service means we are not dependable.

IV. THE FERVOR OF THE WORK

- a. “*Abounding*” – I Cor. 15:58.
 - i. To be over and above; to excel.
- b. Christian service must be abounding service:
 - i. Abounding service is willing service – 2 Cor. 8:12.
 - ii. It is fervent service – Rom. 12:11.
 - iii. It is from the heart – Eph. 6:6.
 1. Jesus will not accept a service without the heart – Matt. 15:8.
 - iv. It is first place service – Matt. 6:33.

V. THE MOTIVE FOR THE WORK

- a. The final resurrection – *“therefore”* connects with the preceding verses . . .
- b. Paul is discussing the resurrection and immortality.
- c. *“Forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”*.
- d. The Lord will reward us in the Judgment:
 - i. 2 Cor. 5:10
 - ii. Heb. 6:10
 - iii. Rom. 2:6 – 7
 - iv. Matt. 25: 31 – 40
- e. In view of the fact that there will be life beyond this, the future life is reason for all to abound in the work of the Lord.

VI. THE NATURE OF THE WORK

- a. It is revealed in the New Testament – 2 Tim. 3:16 – 17.
- b. The work we are to do as individual Christians:
 - i. Study
 - ii. Teach others
 - iii. Help those in need
 - iv. Be an example
 - v. Family duties
- c. The work we are to do in the local church:
 - i. Attend the assemblies
 - ii. Worship
 - iii. Support the work with our money
 - iv. Help do the work