

"THE WORK OF THE LORD"

Text: **(1 Corinthians 15:58)"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."**

INTRODUCTION:

1. I Corinthians runs the full gamut of problems in the Church. Beginning with matters of a personal and ethical nature he finishes with doctrine involving the Resurrection.
2. Our text coming at the end of a great chapter on the Resurrection, is full of challenge and appeal and it is surely meant to fill all who are engaged in the work of the Lord with joy and confidence.
3. Notice, to begin with, how careful Paul is to identify those to whom he is writing.

I- THE SERVANTS INVOLVED

A. THEY ARE SAVED

1. **"BELOVED BRETHREN"** Paul is not writing to all and everyone, but to his

2. In the Lord's work, the workers must always be the Lord's people.

3. No one is qualified to be a worker for the Lord who has not first been born again.

(John 3:3) "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

A. THEY ARE SAVED

B. THEY ARE SELECTED

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

I- THE SERVANTS INVOLVED

II- THE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

[If we would be successful and well-pleasing Servants of God, we must be

"...stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

We must have three qualities:]

A. FIRMNESS. We must be "**STEADFAST, UNMOVABLE**". Our character and our faith is to be like this. We are to be men and women of settled convictions.

B. FERVENCY. We are to be "...**always abounding in the work of the Lord. ..**"

C. FAITHFULNESS. "ALWAYS" ABOUNDING TO EXCELL/EXCEED/INCREASE/REMAIN/BE ENOUGH

I- THE SERVANTS INVOLVED

II- THE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

III- THE SUSESSFULL INGREDIENT

[Paul gives a reason why we should engage in "**THE WORK OF THE LORD**". The reason is referred to by his use of the word

"THEREFORE" which takes us back over the whole 15th chapter. The reason why we stand firm and be constant and earnest in our service to the Lord is:]

A. WE HAVE A GLORIOUS GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM. (Verses 1-3)

B. WE HAVE A GREAT GOD TO PRAISE The Lord is risen, He is alive now, and He is exalted. **(Verses 4-20)**

III. WE HAVE A GRAVE TO EMPTY We shall rise again. **(Verses 21-50)**

The Lord is coming back again. (Verses 51-53)
Death, Sin, Satan, and Hell have been conquered. (Verses 54-57)

{Dr. Alexander Maclaren says that "the work of the Lord is either the work that He is doing, or it is the work that we are doing in His Name." Notice five (5) things about the Work of the Lord:]

1. It is a GREAT Work.

(Nehemiah 6:3)"And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?"

2. It is a GOD Work.

(Ephesians 2:10)"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

3. It is GLORIOUS Work.

4. It is GROUND Work.

5. It is GROWING Work.

I- THE SERVANTS INVOLVED

II- THE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

III- THE SUSSESSFULL INGREDIENT

IV.THE SPECIFICS INCLUDED

"...forasmuch as ye know YOU CAN BE SURE that your labour is not in vain (futile, unprofitable) in the Lord."

Notice that it is your "labor" that is not in vain. This is more than "giving a cup of cold water." This is labor. This has to do with our labor in prayer, labor in witnessing, laboring in Bible Study, yes, laboring in all good works.

IT IS A LABOR BORN OUT OF

A. LOVE FOR THE SINNERS.

B. LOYALTY TO THE SCRIPTURES.

C. LEADERSHIP THE OF THE SPIRIT. Why is it that our labor is not in vain? **Because we are "laborers together with God."** **3:9.** This Epistle deals with laboring in the Work of the Lord. Our labor is never in vain when we enter into God's Work. It is **HONEST WORK, HARD WORK AND HOLY WORK.**

There is no reward from God to those who seek it from men.

