

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

“THE WORK OF THE LORD”

SCRIPTURE READING:

- “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor 15:58).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In this verse -1 Cor 15:58 – The Apostle Paul sums up the Chapter about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the future resurrection of all Christian Believers** (“Beloved Brethren” – Brothers and Sisters). This verse serves as a charge of encouragement to Believers. It means whole hearted devotion while working for the Lord.
- B. “Therefore” (v. 58) – Paul referred to All – He said in 1 Corinthians 15:**
- 1. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ** (The Gospel Message)
 - “³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor 15:3-4).
 - 2. What if the resurrection of Christ did not occur?** (1 Cor 15:13-18):
 - a. There is no resurrection at all (vv. 13, 16)
 - b. Our preaching is in vain (v. 14)
 - c. Our faith is in vain (v. 14)
 - d. We are “false witnesses of God” (v. 15)
 - e. Our faith is worthless (v. 17)
 - f. We are still in our sins (v. 17)
 - g. Those who have died – dead Believers – have perished (v. 18)
 - h. We are to be pitied above all people (v. 19)

It is a Fact: Christ Rose Again (Resurrected)

It is a Fact: Christian Believers will be Resurrected – With Him- One Day we will be raised up in Glory.

Based on our Scripture Reading (1 Cor 15:58), we will study five facts as to how Believers are to be whole-heartedly devoted in The Work of The Lord.

I. BELIEVERS ARE STEADFAST

- **Steadfast** means to be firm, fixed, determined, seated, and faithful.
- A. Believers are to Stand Firm in Christ’s teachings**
 - 1. Love God and your neighbor as yourself**
 - “³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matt 22:37-39).

2. Love our enemies and do good to those who harm you

- “⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; ⁴⁵That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt 5:44-45).

3. Be Kind, Tenderhearted and Forgiving

- “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Eph 4:32).

B. Believers are to Stand Firm in the Biblical Teachings about Jesus

1. The Gospel of Matthew (Chapters 1-2) teaches the lineage, birth, and early life of Christ.
2. The Gospel of Mark teaches that Jesus is the Messiah (8:27-20), and that He came to sacrifice His life to save His people (10:35-45).
3. Jesus was both God's Son (John 3:16) and God Himself – God in Human Flesh (1 Tim 3:16). Christ was fully God and Fully Man (Col 2:9).

As Believers, we are to stand firm in our beliefs about Christ while working for Him. We are to be faithful working for the Lord until the end – “Unto Death.”

- “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev 2:10).

C. Wait for Fruit

Some of the greatest missionaries of history devotedly spread the seed of God's Word and yet had to wait long periods before seeing the fruit of their efforts. William Carey, for example, labored 7 years before the first Hindu convert was brought to Christ in Burma, and Adoniram Judson toiled 7 years before his faithful preaching was rewarded by seeing his first converts. (Source: Unknown)

II. BELIEVERS ARE TO BE UNMOVEABLE

- **Unmoveable** means to be unyielding, unshakeable, undisturbed, to be firmly persistent.
- A. The Believer is to be Solid as a Rock in His Work for the Lord**
1. The Believer does not allow anyone or anything to move him out of his job which is assigned to him by the Lord.
 2. The Believer refuses to be a quitter. We are to always complete our God given job.
- B. The Believer is Unmoved by the Denial of False Teachers**
- “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph 4:14).

C. Beware of False Teachers

1. **They are in the church** – “...They bring in destructive heresies ...”
 - “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Pet 2:1).
2. **They teach false ideas about Christ**
 - They deny the Trinity – Jesus is not God – There is more than one way to God
3. **They have a large following** – “... many shall follow their pernicious ways ...”
 - “And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Pet 2:2).
4. **They are morally corrupt: wicked**
5. **They are selfish** – They will exploit you in their greed
 - “And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not” (2 Pet 2:3).
6. **They are Greedy** - They have hearts trained in greed
 - “Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children” (2 Pet 2:14).

Greed – The love of money is a common characteristic of False Teachers.

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

III. **ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD**

- **Always** – To exceed a fixed number of measure, above and beyond a certain number or measure, seeking opportunities to serve and minister.
- **Work** – Task, A Deed, An Assignment, A Work
- **Behind The Building**
Often our work is “behind the building.” But if that is what God has called us to do, we need to work with all our heart. As part of our calling to love others deeply (1 Peter 4:8), offer hospitality (v.9), and use our gifts to serve others (v.10), our task is to work with God’s strength to bring praise and glory to God, not ourselves. The important thing is that God likes what He sees. (By: Dave Branon)

Though others may not observe us, And see how we serve God today,
Our job as servants of Jesus Is to please Him in every way. —Branon
No service for Christ goes unnoticed by Him.

IV. **YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN**

- **Labor** means toiling and working to the point of exhaustion and fatigue, to the point of collapse.

- **Vain** – means empty, ineffective, foolish, worthless

A. What the Believer Does for the Lord – Big or Small – Is Not in Vain

B. Our Labor has Eternal Significance. Our earthly labor is tiled to Heavenly Rewards.

C. Only What You Do For Christ Will Last

You may build great cathedrals, large or small You may build skyscrapers, grand and tall
And you may conquer all the failures of your past, oh But remember only what you do
for Christ will last

Remember only what you do for Christ will last Remember only what you do for Christ
will last, Remember only what you do for Him will be counted in the end
And only what you do for Christ will last

V. **THE BELIEVER WILL BE REWARDED**

A. The Believer's labor is not in vain. He will not be left empty and unrewarded.

B. The Believer who is steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding and laboring in the work of the Lord, will be rewarded – resurrected and given a new body.

- “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father” (1 Thess 1:3).
- “¹⁰For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
¹¹And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: ¹²That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Heb 6:10-12).
- “I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first” (Rev 2:19).

POINTS TO PONDER

A. Stand Firm in your belief about God and His Word. Trust God at any cost.

- 1. Do not allow anyone or anything to hinder you in Working for the Lord.**
- 2. Never – Never – Never quit Working for the Lord. Do Not Be A Quitter.**

B. Always Trust in the Lord. He is Always Right

C. Beware of False Teachers – They Contradict God and His Word

D. Be Secure in What God has Called you to be. Be Faithful in following the Lead of the Holy Spirit.

- “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” (1 Thess 5:24).

E. Go Above and Beyond the Call of Duty for the Lord.

- “Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.” – William Carey
- **Lord, I Don’ Done**
So Glad, I Don’ Done
I Don’ Done – A What Ya Tol’ Me To Do!

Are you doing what God has assigned you to do?

MEMORY VERSE:

“²³ And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ (Col 3:23-24).

CONCLUSION:

A. Come Workers for the Lord

Come, workers for the Lord, And lift up heart and hand;
Praise God, all skill at bench and board, Praise, all that brain has planned.
So, God, our labour take, From spite and greed set free;
May nothing that we do or make Bring ill to man or thee.
All workers for the lord, Come, sing with voice and heart;
In strength of hands be God adored, And praised in power of art.

B. ABC’s of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you’re a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).