

Abounding In The Work Of The Lord

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

The Universality Of The Work

"My beloved brethren"

- ▶ Not elders only. 1 Peter 5:3
- ▶ Not deacons only. cf. Acts 6:1-3
- ▶ Not preachers only. 2 Timothy 2:15; 4:5

The Universality Of The Work

- ▶ Every Christian must be a worker.
 - ▶ Parable of the talents. Matthew 25:14ff
 - ▶ Church as a body. Romans 12:4ff; 1 Corinthians 12:12ff
- ▶ Differences, but no exceptions. cf. Acts 8:4

The Basic Requirement For The Work

- ▶ Conviction. cf. Daniel 3; Philippians 1:27; 3:13; 1 Peter 3:15
- ▶ Zeal. Titus 2:14; 3:1; Acts 9:20-29; Acts 16:10; Acts 21:13

The Constancy Of The Work

"Always" –

- ▶ Let your speech be with grace. Colossians 4:6
- ▶ Rejoice in the Lord. Philippians 4:4
- ▶ Obey. Philippians 2:12
- ▶ Be ready to give answer. 1 Peter 3:15
- ▶ Be urgent *"in season and out of season."* 2 Timothy 4:2

The Fervor Of The Work

"Abounding" –

- ▶ *"perisseuo"* – "to be over and above; to excel."
- ▶ It is used of excelling others. cf. Matthew 5:20
- ▶ It is used of exceeding the minimum.
- ▶ The Prodigal. cf. Luke 15:17, *"and to spare."*
- ▶ It is used of exceeding what was done in the past. Mark 15:14

The Fervor Of The Work

Our service must be abounding service.

- ▶ Abounding service is willing service. cf. Matthew 20:1 (11th hour man)
- ▶ Abounding service is fervent service. Romans 12:11 (heated to boiling)
- ▶ Abounding service is from the heart. Ephesians 6:6
- ▶ Abounding service is first place service. Matthew 6:33

Motives For The Work

"Wherefore" – 1 Corinthians 15:58

- ▶ Proof of the resurrection: The resurrection of Christ. Verses 12ff
- ▶ Consequences if no resurrection: all is in vain. Verses 14-19
- ▶ Nature of the resurrected body: Incorruptible, glorious, etc. Verses 35-49
- ▶ 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.

Motives For The Work

"Forasmuch" –

- ▶ Introduces the day of reckoning.
- ▶ The judgment day will be a day of accounting. 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12
- ▶ The judgment day will be a day of reward. Galatians 6:9; 2 Timothy 4:8
- ▶ **Our labor is not vain in the Lord.**

The Nature Of The Work

▶ Includes evangelism. cf. Matthew 9:35-38; 28:18-20; 1 Timothy 3:15

- ▶ Acts 8:4, "*They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word.*"
- ▶ Acts 5:28, "*We strictly charged you not to teach in this name: and behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*"
- ▶ cf. Acts 11:19-20

The Nature Of The Work

- ▶ Includes personal edification. 2 Peter 1:5-11
 - ▶ Grace and Knowledge. 2 Peter 3:18; 1:2; 2:20
 - ▶ Christlikeness. Ephesians 4:15; Philippians 2:5; 1 Peter 2:21
 - ▶ Judgment. Philippians 1:9; Hebrews 5:13-14; Philippians 1:10
 - ▶ Character. Romans 1:18-32; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
 - ▶ Ability to serve. Romans 12:1-2; 6:13; 2 Timothy 2:21

The Nature Of The Work

- ▶ Includes protecting our influence. Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 4:12
 - ▶ In word. Matthew 12:34-35; Ephesians 4:29
 - ▶ In manner of life. Philippians 1:27
 - ▶ In love. John 13:34-35
 - ▶ In faith. James 2:18
 - ▶ In purity. cf. Revelation 1:5