

Three Qualities Needed to Do the Lord's Work

1 Cor. 15:58

Introduction:

- A. This text is the conclusion of Paul's discourse on the resurrection.
 - 1. Some were denying the resurrection (v. 12)
 - 2. Paul's proof of the resurrection.
 - a. Scriptures (vv. 3-4)
 - b. Testimony of witnesses (vv. 5-8).
 - 3. Without the resurrection Christianity is an exercise in futility.
 - a. Our preaching is vain (vv. 14-15)
 - b. Our faith is vain (v. 17)
 - c. Our labor is vain (v. 58).
- B. This text gives three qualities need to do the Lord's work.

Discussion:

I. Steadfastness

- A. Three ideas associated with steadfastness.
 - 1. Dependability (cf. Heb. 2:2)
 - 2. Determination (cf. Luke 9:51)
 - 3. Durability (cf. Acts 2:42; Heb. 3:14)
- B. Steadfastness is desirable in many things.
 - 1. In all kinds of machinery.
 - 2. In all kinds of partnerships.
 - 3. In all kinds of organizations.
 - 4. In all phases of the Lord's work.
- C. Steadfastness is undermined by many things.
 - 1. Laziness (Matt. 25:26; Rom. 12:11)
 - 2. Distractions (Mark 4:19; Luke 14:16-20)
 - 3. Carelessness (Foolish Virgins - Matt 25).

II. Immovableness

- A. Unmoved:
 - 1. By persecution and threats. (Acts 20:24)
 - 2. By every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14)
 - 3. From the hope of the gospel (Col. 1:13)
- B. Unmoveable only if we are:
 - 1. Anchored to Christ (Heb. 6:19-20)
 - 2. Built up rock of His word (Matt. 7:24-27)

III. Bountifulness

- A. Our service to God is to be bountiful rather than meager or sparingly.
 - 1. "Always abounding.." (1 Cor. 15:58).
 - 2. "If these things be in you and abound.. (2 Pet. 1:8).
 - 3. Abundant entrance to heaven for those who abound (2 Pet. 1:11)
 - 4. Abundant sowing reaps abundant harvest. (2 Cor. 9:6)
- B. The difference in sowing sparingly and abundantly is a matter of attitudes.
 - 1. "I have to do" versus "I want to I do."
 - 2. "What do I have to do to get by" versus "What can I do to further His Cause"
 - 3. From "If you can show it necessary, I will do" versus "Show me that it is beneficial, I will do"
- C. Does any ever regret a life of abundant service to the Lord?

Conclusion:

- A. Let us work so that our labor will not be in vain.
- B. Our labor is not in vain "in the Lord" because of the resurrection.