

“ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD”
1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-58

INTRO: We are currently in the middle of the **LABOR DAY WEEKEND** when we honor those who are a part of the work force in America. The history of **LABOR DAY** is rooted in the late 19th century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions American workers have made to our nation’s strength, prosperity, and well-being. And truly such an honor is deserved because without the strong work ethic of the American laborer, our nation could have never become the country it is today. (NOTE OUR AREA). **HAVING A GOOD WORK ETHIC IS BIBLICAL AS THE WORD OF GOD SAYS IN 2 THESSALONIANS 3:20 “IF A MAN WOULD NOT WORK, NEITHER SHOULD HE EAT.” GOOD CHRISTIANS WILL BE GOOD WORKERS.** However, today I don’t want to talk about the **physical work ethic** we all should maintain but rather observe what the scripture says about our **SPIRITUAL WORK ETHIC** as brought forth in 1 Corinthians 15:58. But, it is to be noted that **WHEN OUR SPIRITUAL WORK ETHIC IS RIGHT, SO WILL OUR PHYSICAL ETHIC WORK BE RIGHT.** So, today let’s focus for a few minutes on the subject of **ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD** as brought to us from 1 Corinthians 15:58.

BACKGROUND OF THE TEXT: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS. Often, 1 Corinthians 15 is referred to as the “**RESURRECTION CHAPTER OF THE EPISTLES**” because of its emphasis on Christ’s and the Christian’s resurrection.

NOTE SOME WORDS IN THE VERSE:

- 1) **“THEREFORE”** refers back to the subject of the chapter – CHRIST’S RESURRECTION. Note Vss. 1-8.
- 2) **“BELOVED BRETHREN”** refers to **all** Born-again Christians.
- 3) **“STEDFAST”** refers to being **resolute** in doing the work of the Lord.
- 4) **“UNMOVABLE”** refers to **continuing** in the work of the Lord.
- 5) **“ALWAYS ABOUNDING”** refers to being **fully occupied** in the work of the Lord

I. THE ROUTE FOR ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD IS BASED UPON A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

- A. Personal Salvation – 2 Corinthians 13:5; Romans 10:13
- B. Personal Separation – 2 Timothy 2:4; Romans 12:1
- C. Personal Sanctification – 1 Peter 3:15; John 17:17

II. THE READINESS FOR ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

“ALWAYS ABOUNDING” BY BEING CONSISTENTLY AND FULLY OCCUPIED IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

- A. Abounding in Personal Bible Study
- B. Abounding in Personal Prayer Activity
- C. Abounding in Personal Obedience
- D. Abounding in Personal Ministry

III. THE REALITY OF ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL AMONG UNBELIEVERS AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF BELIEVERS

- A. By Personal Evangelism – 2 Timothy 4:5; Mark 16:15
- B. By Personal Edification – Romans 14:19; 15:1,2

IV. THE RESULT OF ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

“YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD”

NOTE: The word “VAIN” in the text means “EMPTY,” AND “NON-EFFECTIVE”

ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD WILL BRING EFFECTIVE AND ETERNAL RESULTS

- A. Through the Blessing of Spiritual Fruit – John 15:16
- B. Through the Blessing of Spiritual Reward – 1 Corinthians 3:13,14

PERSONAL LESSONS AND APPLICATION

- 1) Every Child of God has the responsibility and privilege of abounding in the work of the Lord.
- 2) Every Child of God is gifted in some way to abound in the work of the Lord.
- 3) Every Child of God will be held accountable by God for abounding in the work of the Lord

QUESTION

ARE YOU ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD?

- 1) Are you Saved?
- 2) Are you Serving?