

“YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN”

1 CORINTHIANS

15:58-16:21

WHAT, WHY, & HOW

WHAT

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“THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BROTHERS, **BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE,** ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT IN THE LORD YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN.”

(1 Corinthians 15:58, ESV)

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**BECOME CONFIDENT
OF THE TRUTH**

WHY

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE
IMPACTS WHAT YOU DO**

WHAT YOU BELIEVE IMPACTS...

How will you endure a difficult marriage, failing health, chronic pain, a dream derailed, a hard school year, gossip spread about you, the loss of a spouse or child, being passed over for a better job or promotion, feeling like you are going nowhere, lingering guilt, lingering shame, moving away from family, etc?

“IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, **STABLE AND STEADFAST**, NOT SHIFTING FROM **THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL** THAT YOU HEARD, WHICH HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED IN ALL CREATION UNDER HEAVEN, AND OF WHICH I, PAUL, BECAME A MINISTER.”
(COLOSSIANS 1:23, ESV)

**STAND FIRM ON THE
HOPE OF GOSPEL TRUTH**

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“I THINK IF I COULD HAVE SEEN THE
SHORE, I WOULD HAVE MADE IT.”

— *young Florence Chadwick*

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REALITY OF YOUR
RESURRECTION

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- “Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.**”
(1 Corinthians 15:49, ESV)
- “But our **citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our **lowly body to be like his glorious body**, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” (Philippians 3:20–21, ESV)
- **A Real Place** Prepared by the Cross - John 14:1-6;
- **A Present City** - Hebrews 11:13-16 & 12:22-24;

THE HEAVENLY CITY WITH MOVE TO NEW EARTH

(REVELATION 21:1-4, ESV)

“Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the **holy city**, new Jerusalem, **coming down out of heaven** from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man**. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will **wipe away every tear** from their eyes, and **death shall be no more**, neither shall there be **mourning**, nor **crying**, nor **pain** anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

“

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HOW

THROUGH BOTH GOSPEL WORK
AND EVERY GOOD WORK

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SPECIFIC GOSPEL WORK OF EVANGELISM AND ENRICHMENT

- “When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing **the work of the Lord, as I am**. So let no one despise him. **Help him** on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.” (1 Corinthians 16:10–11, ESV)
- “Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints — be subject to such as these, and to **every fellow worker and laborer**.” (1 Corinthians 16:15–16, ESV)
- “for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.” (Philippians 2:30, ESV)
- “to **equip the saints** for **the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ,” (Ephesians 4:12, ESV)

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**EVERY GOOD TASK REDEEMED
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**

“Whatever you do, **work** heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that **from the Lord you will receive** the inheritance as your **reward**. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23–24, ESV)

**RIGHT NOW COUNTS
FOR FOREVER**

“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:10–15, ESV)

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19–21, ESV)

**FOLLOWING JESUS HERE
FOLLOWS YOU THERE**

“Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, **for my sake and for the gospel**, who will not **receive a hundredfold** now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and **in the age to come eternal life.**”

(Mark 10:28–30, ESV)

WHAT KIND OF WORK?

WORKING INTO THE CONTEXT

1. Working to keep unity in the church (1, 2, 3, 4)
2. Working to *glorify* God not self in your sexuality (5, 6, 7)
3. Enduring a wrong and not seeking retribution (6)
4. Keeping up your guard against cultural idolatry (chap 10)
5. Respecting authority and the Lord's Supper (chap 11)

WHAT KIND OF WORK?

WORKING INTO THE CONTEXT

6. Giving priority to your role in this church family (chap 12)
7. Love coloring what we say and do (chap 13)
8. Denying your rights for the conscience of others (chap 8, 9, 14)
9. **Gospel ministry** (evangelism & discipleship for church planting, church strengthening) (chapter 16)
10. **Working your job for the welfare of others** (the Sunday collection for the church in Jerusalem) (chap 16)

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

(Matthew 24:14, ESV)

“knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.”

(Ephesians 6:8, ESV)

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