

LABOR THAT IS NOT IN VAIN

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

INTRODUCTION:

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58: *“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.”*

I. BE YE STEADFAST

- A. What does it mean to be steadfast?
- B. Job 11.13-15: *“...Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear”*
- C. Hebrews 1.1,2: *“God...hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son whom He appointed heir of all things...”*
- D. Hebrews 6.17-20: Our hope is *“both sure and steadfast... whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus”*
- E. 2 Peter 3.17,18: *“...beware lest ye also, being led away... fall from your own steadfastness”* (cf. 1 Pet. 5.8,9)

II. BE YE UNMOVEABLE

- A. What does it mean to be unmoveable?
- B. Those who are moveable are *“like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind”* (James 1.6-8)
- C. How do we know if we have God’s approval? (2 Tim. 2.15)
- D. Only when one is grounded in the word can he be *“perfect, thoroughly furnished until all good works”* (2 Tim. 3.16,17)
- E. Those who are unmoveable look to their eternal home with confidence. (2 Tim. 4.6-8)

III. ALWAYS ABOUNDING

- A. What does it mean to always abound?
- B. Proverbs 28.20: *“A faithful man will abound with blessings”*
- C. Proverbs 29.22: *“a furious man aboundeth in transgression”*
- D. Christians must take up their cross and follow Christ. But what does that mean? (Matt. 16.24-27; Luke 9.23)
- E. Matthew 28.19,20: *“...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”* What’s left out?
- F. Following *“all Scriptures”* (2 Tim. 2.15; 2 Tim. 3.16,17)
- G. Do we *“contend earnestly for the faith...”* (Jude 3,4)
- H. 2 Peter 1.8: *“For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful...”*

CONCLUSION: Do this and your labor will not be in vain in the Lord

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ♦ North Las Vegas, NV ♦ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com
www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping
God “in Spirit
and truth”
(John 4.23)*

MAY 31ST, 2009

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

The light is the word of God (Ps. 119.105). And to walk in the light, is to live one’s life by the principles and doctrines of God as revealed in the New Testament (1 John 1.7). The basic purpose of light is to see what we otherwise would not be able to see. And here lies the premise for the metaphor used.

Those who do not walk in the light do not know what God requires of them. Through the revelation of God we can *“understand what the will of the Lord is”* (Eph. 5.17), which comes by reading (Eph. 3.3,4). Without knowledge of the word of God, the will of God becomes a mystery *“which in other ages had not been made known to the sons of men”* (Eph. 3.5).

Furthermore, those who do not walk in the light are unaware of their sinful condition. There are many who, through a lack of knowledge or from misinformation, carelessly go their way never knowing that their lives are out of favor with God. They have no idea that judgment awaits *“in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God”* (2 Thes. 1.8). They walk the road that is *“wide”* never realizing that that it *“leads to destruction”* (Matt. 7.13). For those who *“walk in darkness...does not know where he is going”* (1 John 2.11).

Sadly there are those who do not want their deeds to be exposed. They would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism. Jesus describes them as those who *“love darkness rather than light”* (John 3.19). However, we can know with confidence who we are, what we are to do, and where we are going when we walk in the light.

CLP

ADDING TO OUR FAITH: LOVE

2 PETER 1:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. God has given every Christian the tools that are necessary for spiritual growth, but we must put them into practice.
2. Love, [Gk: Agape] is an action word teaching us to put the best interest of others ahead of ourselves...even if he is our enemy.
3. The prominence of love emphasizes why it finalizes and encompasses everything else that we do to grow in the Lord.

I. LOVE IS THE BOND OF PERFECTION

- A. **MATTHEW 19.21:** *“If you want to be perfect...”*
1. God demands spiritual maturity. (Matt. 5.48; Col. 1.28)
 2. Other virtues may exist, but without adding love to our faith we are incomplete. (1 Cor. 13.1-3,8)
 3. Therefore, those committed to growth are perfected when love binds everything else together. (Col. 3.12-14)
- B. So necessary is love that without it we are unable to fulfill the law of God. (Matt. 22.35-40; Rom. 13.8-10)
1. Love is the garment that we wear. (Col. 3.14)
 2. Love is the manner in which we walk. (Eph. 5.2)
 3. Love is the motive for what we do. (1 Cor. 16.14)
 4. Love is the connection which binds us. (Col. 2.2)
 5. Love is the control of Christian liberty. (Gal. 5.13)

II. HOW DO CHRISTIANS ADD LOVE TO THEIR FAITH

- A. The best way to learn how to love is by example. (Rom. 5.8)
1. The exemplary demonstration of love is when God gave His Son for the sins of man. (1 John 4.10)
 2. **1 JOHN 4.11:** *“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another”* (cf. 1 John 3.16; John 13.35)
- B. Christians are to demonstrate love toward all.
1. Love God by keeping His commandments. (2 John 6)
 2. Love the lost by sharing the gospel. (1 Pet. 4.5,6)
 3. Love the brethren by providing for their needs.
 - a) Helping to meet material needs. (1 John 3.16-18)
 - b) Providing strength and encouragement. (Heb. 10.24)
 - c) Offering forgiveness to the repentant. (1 Pet. 4.8)

CONCLUSION: Perfection is within the reach of everyone.

DESERVED WRATH, MERCIFUL PARDON

“For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still” (Isaiah 5.25b)

These words, repeated several times in the book of Isaiah, bespeak a crucial point in Israel’s history. Jeroboam had led the ten northern tribes in revolt against the House of David. Under the leadership of her idolatrous kings, she sank deeper and deeper into spiritual, moral, and social decay. Refusing to hear the voices of the prophets God sent to warn her, she would soon be swept away by the conquering Assyrians (Isa. 7.8,9L 2 Kings 17.13,14).

The passage cited (including 2 Kings 17.19) indicate the southern two tribes under the House of David (Judah) were doing no better. Afflicted with the spiritual and moral wretchedness of idolatry and bereft of all compassion for the lowly of her society, she would eventually fall to Assyria’s conqueror, Babylon (Jeremiah 25).

None of this destruction, however, was due to a lack of patience. God sent prophet after prophet to warn these people of the disaster they were bringing on themselves by their corrupt conduct. Sadly, they refused to listen. And, *“For all this”*, Isaiah would write, *“His anger is not turned away...”*

“But,” Isaiah added, *“His hand is stretched out still.”* Had these people degenerated to the immorality of the Gentiles? Yes. Had they even sunk to the practice of offering their children by fire to their idols? Yes, that, too. And had the wealthy become so heartless as to grind the poor, the widow, and the orphan into the dirt to satisfy their own greed? Hear their cries! Yet, *“His hand is stretched out still.”*

This says that man cannot sink so deep in sin that God is unwilling to extend to him the merciful hand of forgiveness and reconciliation – provided one is willing to accept God’s hand with repentance and obedience. As expressed later through another prophet, *“‘Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die’ says the Lord God, ‘and not that he should turn from his ways and live?...Repent and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin’”* (Ezekiel 18.23,30b)

Nor has God changed his thinking or His ways since the days of ancient Israel being still, *“...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3.9). -Jerry Bassett