

CHRISTIANS: STEADFAST AND UNMOVEABLE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

INTRODUCTION:

1. **2 TIMOTHY 4.10:** *“for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica ...”*
2. While the wicked enjoy no peace, the faithful have a peace with God through Christ. (Isa. 57.20,21; Col. 1.20; Rom. 5.1)
3. What do steadfast, immoveable saints do?

I. FOLLOW CHRIST

- A. Paul knew whom he believed. (2 Tim. 1.12)
- B. Christians know their Shepherd. (John 10.14)
- C. Though we do not see Him, we believe. (1 Pet. 1.8)

II. ABIDE IN CHRIST

- A. Abiding in Christ is necessary to produce fruit.(John 15.4,7)
- B. How does one abide in Christ? By keeping His commandments. (1 John 3.24)

III. STRIVE FOR UNITY

- A. Christ desires unity among the faithful. (John 17.21-23)
- B. However, unity is destroyed by carnality manifested in strife and envy. (1 Cor. 3.3; Matt. 12.25; Rom. 16.17)
- C. **1 PETER 3.10:** *“For ‘He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil...”*

IV. DEAL WITH TEMPTATION

- A. Temptation may come suddenly and unexpectedly. We must always watch. (Matt. 26.41; Prov. 4.14; 1 Pet. 5.8,9)
- B. God always provides a way of escape. (1 Cor. 10.13)

V. ARE NOT INFLUENCED BY FALSE TEACHERS

- A. Paul warned the Ephesian elders of false teachers who would rise up from among them. (Acts 20.30)
- B. The word of God is the only effective weapon for defeating false doctrines. (Titus 1.9)
- C. The punishment of false teachers. (2 Thes. 3.6; Eph. 5.6)

CONCLUSION: Christians who are steadfast and immovable will always abound in the work of the Lord.

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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)*

OCTOBER 25TH, 2009

NOT ONLY IN MY ABSENCE

Perhaps you have heard the expression, “When the cat is away, the mice will play”. How true it is that when the boss leaves the office, or if the teacher leaves the classroom, the employees and students abandon their responsibilities. However, one tends to be more serious and productive in his work when he knows the boss is watching.

Paul did not want the same mentality held by the Christians in Philippi. For to them he writes, *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;”* Paul did not want them being faithful only because he was with them. But also in his absence they were to continue to be diligent.

What do you suppose your attitude would be if Christ were sitting in the pew next to you? Would you sing louder? Would you pray harder? Would you give more? What would you do if Christ were living in your home? Would you spend more time reading the Bible and less time watching television? Would you be less tolerant of your children’s defiance?

The fact is that Christ is sitting next to us. He is in our homes. He is driving to work and school with us. He is looking over our shoulder every moment (Prov. 15.3). Does He approve of the things that you do? Are you doing anything that you would be ashamed to do if you knew He was with you?

Christians always ought to be faithful because the presence of Christ is everywhere.

CLP

THE STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH

EPHESIANS 4.15

INTRODUCTION:

1. The integrity of any structure is dependant on the strength of the foundation and building materials. (1 Cor. 3.11-13)
2. The world is filled with those things which test the strength of the congregation, but will we stand in the end?
3. As each Christian is a building block in the structure of the church, it is imperative that each member be strong in the Lord.

I. A CONVERTED MEMBERSHIP

- A. Conversion is the mental and moral change effected by the gospel of Christ. (Acts 3.19; Ps. 19.7; 51.13; Matt. 18.3)
- B. The church is only strong when every member is changed!
 1. A total change in heart, conduct, and relationships. (Rom. 10.10; Acts 26.20; Gal. 3.26,27)
 2. Yet some have not fully changed. (1 Pet. 4.3; Eph. 4.17)

II. A CONVICTED MEMBERSHIP

- A. A strength of a congregation is one whose members have strong convictions. (2 Tim. 1.12; Rom. 10.17)
 1. When each one is well grounded in the truth, there will be no wavering or faltering. (1 Kings 18.21; Rom. 4.19-21)
 2. Christians set the example of conviction to the world of ambiguity and apathy. (Phil. 2.12-16)
- B. A religion of conviction or convenience? (Eph. 4.11-14)

III. A CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP

- A. A membership that is confirmed is a membership that is strengthened. (Acts 14:22; 15.32,41; 16.4,5; 18.23)
- B. How can we have a confirmed membership?
 1. Bold and unapologetic preaching. (2 Tim. 4.2; Jer. 1.10)
 2. Genuine care for one another. (1 Cor. 12.23-25)
 3. A hunger and thirst for righteousness. (1 Pet. 2.2)

IV. A CONSECRATED MEMBERSHIP

- A. A consecrated membership is separated. (2 Cor. 6.17)
- B. Does the church have a unique identity that distinguishes it from the world? (Rom. 12.2; 1 John 4.5; 1 Pet. 4.11)

CONCLUSION: A growing congregation are growing members.

RULING THE HOUSE WELL

The qualifications of elders and deacons are not arbitrary but affect the overall success or failure of the church. Therefore it is critical that the church have men who meet the qualifications. Not one requisite can be overlooked.

The church as a family is a constant theme within the New Testament. The relationship between Christ and the church is likened unto that between a husband and a wife (Eph. 5.22-33). The discipline of the Hebrew Christians was compared to that of a father and his children (Heb. 12.7-11). And when Jesus looked out to His mother and brothers who were calling for Him, He *“stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.’”* (Matt. 12.49,50). It should be little wonder, therefore, that one of the prerequisites of both elders and deacons is to be able to rule his own house well (1 Tim. 3.4,5,12).

The word “rule” does not carry the meaning as is often applied. To rule is not to command, dictate, and control. There are other words which convey this meaning. However, in 1 Timothy 3, the word is from the Greek origin PROISTEMI and is defined as “to stand before” [VINE]. The idea is one of leadership as a leader stands before those he leads. He does not merely point the way, but he goes in front of his family that they may follow in his footsteps. Furthermore, Vine explains that the word implies “care and diligence.”

What kind of elders and deacons are qualified to serve the church? A good elder or deacon serves the church the same way he serves his family. He is one who sets the right example. His care and concern for the family encourages trust giving the family good reason to follow. He does not rule with an iron fist (1 Pet. 5.3), but with wisdom putting forth great effort to ensure the welfare and safety of his family. And if a man cannot maintain his family, instill trust, and encourage them to follow keeping them spiritually well, *“how will he take care of the church of God”* (1 Tim. 3.5)?

Those who desire to serve as an elder or deacon do not do so out of compulsion (1 Pet. 5.2). It is a great privilege as well as great responsibility.

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