ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD [A]

**1 Corinthians 15:57, 58**

**INTRODUCTI0N:**

1. The Christian LIFE is filled with work for the Master (1 Cor 3:9).

2. All of us sing of work, **BUT** few actually abound in the work of the Lord.

 A. We sing, “I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord” BUT, do we [fully] comprehend?

 1. It is one thing to say something and another to fulfill that which [we] have said.

3. This involves the greatest privileges, responsibilities [rewards] of any WORK known to man.

**BODY:**

**1. THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE WORK**

 A. The admonition of Paul is addressed to “my beloved brethren”.

 1. **NOT** addressed to elders only…although they must set the example (1 Pet 5:3).

 2. **NOT** addressed to deacons only…although the word means “servant” (Ac 6:1 – 3).

 3. **NOT** addressed to preachers only…although he has a work to do (2 Tim 2:15; 4:5).

 B. The New Testament teaches EVERY Christian must be a WORKER.

 1. The parable of the talents (Mt 25:14 – 30) clearly proves this point.

 A. Even if [we] only have one talent, [we] have a work to do.

 2. The church of the Bible is pictured as a body (Rom 12:5).

 A. As each member of the physical body has a function to perform for survival, so

 does each member of the Spiritual body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12 – 21).

 C. There will be differences, **BUT** **NO** exceptions.

 1. There will be differences of ability, desire, opportunity, etc.

 A. **NO** exceptions based upon education, age, gender, etc. (Ac 8:4).

 2. ALWAYS work for a Paul, Timothy; Eunice, Dorcas, Barnabas and Mark.

**2. THE CONSTANCY OF THE WORK**

 A. The religion of Christ is the religion of ALWAYS.

 1. Always let your speech be with grace (Col 4:6)/Always rejoice in the Lord (Php 4:4).

 2. Always obey (Php 2:12)/Always be ready to give an answer (1 Pet 3:15).

 3. To WORK always is to “Be urgent in season, out of season” (2 Tim 4:2).

 B. Spasmodic service is **NOT** acceptable to the Lord.

 1. Always means six day a week plus Sunday.

 A. Sunday [ONLY] is **NO** good.

 2. Always means when [we] are watched/praised; when work is unseen/unpraised.

 3. Always means during special events like Gospel Meetings and with other events.

 4. Always means youth plus age (Lk 9:62).

 C. Lack of constancy in Christian service means [we] are **NOT** dependable.

 1. Maybe hot…maybe cold…maybe lukewarm.

 2. More importantly, [we] are taking a chance on our Eternal Salvation!!

**3. THE FERVOR OF THE WORK**

 A. The Greek word translated “abounding” is an interesting study.

 1. It is the word “perisseuo” meaning “to be over and above; excel”/others (Mt 5:20).

 2. Used of exceeding the minimum (Lk 15:17)/what was done in the past (Mk 15:14).

 B. Christian service must be abounding service.

 1. Abounding service is willing service./11th hour illustrate this point (Mt 20:1 – 16).

 2. Abounding service is fervent service (Rom 12:11).

 A. The idea of being heated to a boil.

 3. Abounding service is from the heart (Eph 6:6)/is 1st place service (Mt 6:33).