

**"ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD"**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:58**

**INTRO:** On LABOR DAY we celebrate and honor those who have been a part of the work force that has made America great. In my opinion, such honor is needed and should be encouraged. A good work ethic is VERY BIBLICAL as the Word of God teaches in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, "IF ANY WOULD NOT WORK, NEITHER SHOULD HE EAT." That is strong language. **PHYSICAL LABOR IS VERY IMPORTANT BUT ANOTHER TYPE OF WORK THAT MAY EVEN HAVE A HIGHER VALUE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD IS SPIRITUAL LABOR...THAT IS...THE WORK OF THE LORD.** The entire Word of God is dedicated to teaching believers TO BE INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF THE LORD AND HOW TO DO SO FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD. So, today we shall consider for a few minutes the subject of "ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD."

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NOTE: 1 Corinthians 15:58 is the last verse in a chapter that is dedicated to the RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST. The basic concept behind the verse is that **SINCE CHRIST HAS COMPLETED THE WORK OF REDEMPTION WITH HIS RESURRECTION, WE WHO ARE BELIEVERS OUGHT TO ABOUND IN THE WORK OF THE LORD IN HONOR OF WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US ON THE CROSS.**

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**I. THE ESSENCE OF THE WORK OF THE LORD**

**"THE WORK OF THE LORD."**

A. From The Lord's Perspective

**-THAT WHICH GOD HAS DONE, IS DOING AND WILL DO TO GLORIFY HIS NAME IN ALL THE EARTH.**

1. The Work of Creation (His Work in the Universe)
2. The Work of Redemption (His Work of Salvation)
3. The Work of Sanctification (His Work in Believers)
  - a. Ephesians 2:10 - God has set believers aside for specific spiritual work.
  - b. Philippians 1:6 - God will ultimately complete His work of sanctification in believers (1 Thessalonians 3:13)
  - c. Philippians 2:13- God works in believers to do His will.

B. From the Believer's Perspective

**-THAT WHICH BELIEVERS DO FOR THE LORD IN FULFILLING HIS COMMANDMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS.**

**TWO PRINCIPLES**

1. The General Principle ( For all believers to consider)
  - a. To Perform the Great Commission - Matthew 28:19,20
  - b. To Produce Salt and Light - Matthew 5:12-16
  - c. To Proclaim Biblical Truth - 1 Timothy 3:15
  
2. The Specific Principle (For Individual Believers)
  - a. To Recognize our Personal Responsibility - Ephesians 2:10b
  - b. To Realize our Spiritual Gifts - 1 Peter 4:10
  - c. To Respond to our Individual Ministry - 1 Timothy 1:12
  - d. To Refresh our Daily Living - Titus 3:8

ILLUSTRATION:

**II. THE EFFORT OF THE WORK OF THE LORD**

**"ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD"**

NOTE: The word "ABOUNDING" means "TO EXCEED, TO EXCEL, TO BE PREEMINENT"

THE POINT: **Every Christian is to understand that the WORK OF THE LORD is to be PREEMINENT in his life according to the EXPECTATION OF GOD and is to thus EXCEL therein CONSTANTLY.**

- A. The Effort of Making the Work of the Lord one's LIFE  
-THE PREEMINENT PRINCIPLE-
- B. The Effort of Doing the Work of the Lord with EXCELLENCE  
-THE EXCELLING PRINCIPLE-
- C. The Effort of Completing the Work of the Lord until FINISHED  
-THE "NOT QUITTING" PRINCIPLE

**NOTE: IN DOING THE WORK OF THE LORD GOD ACTUALLY WORKS ALONG WITH US! 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9; 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

### **III. THE EFFECT OF DOING THE WORK OF THE LORD**

***"YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD"***

- A. God will Remember Your Work - Hebrews 6:10
- B. God will Reward Your Work - 2 Corinthians 5:9,10
- C. God will Receive the Glory for Your Work - 1 Peter 4:11 (Mt. 5:16)

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**APPLICATION:**

- 1) Thank God for His work in Creation, Redemption and Sanctification.
- 2) Conduct a personal examination to see how your effort is doing the work of the Lord is coming along.
  - Is It Preeminent?
  - Is It Excellent?
  - Is It Being Completed?

**IN LIGHT OF THE GREAT REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST FOR US ON THE CROSS, WE ARE COMPELLED TO DO A GREAT WORK FOR HIM.**