

Always Abounding

Background

- House of Chloe (1:11) and others (16:15-18)
- Corinth abounds in . . .

1. Sin (ch.1-16).

Some forgot to change

2. Neglect (ch.5).

Some forgot to care

3. Bad attitudes (ch.3,5,8-10, 11, 12-14...)

Some forgot to be cheerful

1 Co.15

- ▶ **WHAT?** Resurrection
- ▶ **SO WHAT?** Response, Verse 58

Therefore my beloved brethren,
be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding
in the work of the Lord,
knowing that your labor
is not in vain
in the Lord.

Therefore: for this reason...

- Resurrection: *now we await our turn*
- “Therefore” bridges

Verses 1-57: resurrection	Verse 58 Therefore	Verse 58: repentance
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- Former discussion: Corinthians have been deceived about resurrection.
- Following directions: conduct must reflect truth about resurrection.

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Scriptural scolding

- “Hard sayings” (Jn.6)
 - May break up hearts of ice.
 - Paul (9:27)

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Steadfast: firm, unwavering

- 7:37, marriage... Col.1:23
 - Some in Corinth forgot basics (ch.15)
 - They must get firm footing. Ep.4:14
- **Steadfast** is opposite of . . .
 1. **Instability** (on again, off again)
 2. **Indifference** (aloof; excuses)
 3. **Inconsistency** (promotes excuses)

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Immovable: synonym of steadfast

- Firm, unshaken, steady; persistent.
- Not turned aside by others (ch.15).
- World rejoices when Christians fall.
- This is NOT . . .
 1. **Stubbornness.**
 2. **Laziness.**
 3. **Ignoring sin.** 5:2. . . .15:33-34

This IS unyielding loyalty to Lord.

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Abounding:

- Of things: more than enough; left over
- Of persons: in great abundance
 - 14:12, strive in building up the church
 - 1 Th.3:12

Abounding is opposite of . . .

Mere
hobby

Casual
interest

Temporary
pursuit

Abounding:

- Describes one who . . .

Goes the second mile

Puts others first

Burns with passion for Him

- Mt.18:21-23
- Lk.17:3-4

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Work: 9:1

- Let there be less speculation and more work
- This is NOT
 - Work for satan: ch.1; 5; 2 Co.11:12-15
 - Work for self: 3 Jn.9-10

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**Always: at all times;
on every occasion**

- **Structure:**

Abounding in the work of the Lord always

- First and last word go together in thought
- Stresses stability. 1 Th.5:15

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Knowing: a stabilizer

- Ch. 15 – resurrection is real, thus God and His gospel are real
 - Believe and act on truth
 - Know that your labor is not wasted
- IF NOT: throw in the towel

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Labor not in vain

- Labor: work, toil. Ph.2:30
- Vain: for no purpose.

‘a trembling echo of the discouragement resulting from a piece of work being rejected for alleged bad finish and therefore not paid for’ (LAE, 314).

- Ph.2:16

Labor not in vain

- Labor: work, toil. Ph.2:30
- Vain: for no purpose.
 - 1 Co.15:10
 - Everything Paul does is because of what God has done for him...
 - 1 Co.15:14, without resurrection...
 - Illustrates work at harvest
 - Noah saved only his family...

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In the Lord: goes with whole sentence

- What we do now counts forever.
- Work of the Lord is preparation for eternity.
- Nearly everything we do passes in time.
 - Ec.1:2
 - Ja.4:14
- If our 'things' don't disappear, we do.