

Dedication - 1 Corinthians 15:58

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I. Introduction.

A. The speaker chose 1 Corinthians 15:58 as a life verse when he was younger.

B. This is the great resurrection chapter.

II. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

A. What is the work of the Lord?

1. There are many things Christians do, but they may not be the central work of the Lord.
2. We live in a world full of broken, mourning and heavy people. (Isaiah 61)
3. Man by himself has never solved sin, suffering and death - the work of the Lord concerns these basic issues. (Acts 26:18)
4. The work of the Lord has to do with the forgiveness of sins, value of suffering and finally triumph over death. (1 Corinthians 15)
5. Unless people are being won to Christ and matured in Christ, we are not accomplishing the work of the Lord. (Matthew 16)

B. Paul said, "always bounding in the work of the Lord."

1. This means excelling in the work of the Lord.
2. We are to give it our best - work without limit.
3. Some do not abound in the work of the Lord because it is not first in their lives.

C. The work is difficult.

1. You abound when it is easy or when it is tough. (Luke 14)
2. It is difficult because it is corporate.
 - a. You have to work with other people.
 - b. God uses these people to shape you though.
3. It is difficult because your failures are public.
4. It is difficult because the Lord is active and not passive. (Mark 6:30, Hebrews 11)

D. The labor of the Lord is not in vain.

1. Many lives have been spent in vain - the labor in the Lord is not.
2. There may be no earthly reward, but God is watching and will reward.
3. God multiplies what one does beyond his expectations.
4. Little is much when God is in it.
5. Deciding to always abound in the work of the Lord will always make one's life worthwhile

III. Rededicate yourself or dedicate yourself to the work of the Lord.

Application questions

1. Summarize what the work of the Lord is.

2. What are the difficulties in the Lord's work? Which stands out to you? Explain.

3. What costs do you need to weight anew as you consider rededicating your life to Christ? List several and spend some time in reflection about what you might need to surrender to God to actively please Him in the work of the ministry.
