

Life Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:58

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I. Introduction - 1 Corinthians 15:58.

- A. The speaker heard the gospel—the good news that Jesus had forgiven his sins—after pursuing a girl in high school.
- B. Being unsure whether he received Jesus personally, he decided to do so one night.
- C. After becoming a Christian he chose 1 Corinthians 15:58 as his life verse.
- D. We are to abound in the work of the Lord.

II. What is the work of the Lord?

- A. It is first to love people. This is an unselfish concern that feely accepts another and seeks their good. (1 Thessalonians 2:8)
- B. It is to share the gospel.
 - 1. The gospel is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was resurrected on the third day, ascended to heaven and now from heaven offers the Holy Spirit for eternal life on the condition of our repentance and faith.
 - 2. The work of the gospel is to share this good news.
- C. It is to share one's life. A new Christian needs to grow.

III. Work in the Lord is not in vain.

- A. God's word produces fruit.
- B. God takes the extraordinary and makes it ordinary. (Isaiah 60:22)
 - 1. It is not about what you can do, but what God will do.
 - 2. God will even keep your ministry up after you are gone. God buries his workers and carries on their work.

IV. The fine print: be immovable because the work of the Lord is rewarding but not easy.

- A. We have an enemy, the Devil. (1 Peter 5:8)
 - 1. The Holy Spirit leads with a gentle tug.
 - 2. The Devil leads with turmoil.

B. Our friends can hurt us. (Deuteronomy 1:28)

C. We have to deal with ourselves.

1. Success is never final and failure is seldom fatal.

2. It is courage that counts, which is the ability to stick it out.

V. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. Explain the “work of the Lord.” What is its relationship to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)?

2. Why is it important to know that God’s work is not in vain? What events in your life have pointed to His work?

3. Brainstorm some good works that you can partake in within your sphere of influence. List three you can accomplish in the next month that can make an influence in someone’s life for the gospel.
