

1 Corinthians 15:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Analysis

Therefore, my beloved brethren (Ὥστε, ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοί)—The conjunction *hōste* (Ὥστε, "therefore, so then") draws practical conclusion from resurrection doctrine (vv. 1-57). The affectionate address *adelphoi mou agapētoi* (ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοί, "my beloved brothers") shows pastoral warmth after intense theological argument.

Be ye stedfast, unmoveable (έδραῖοι γίνεσθε, ἀμετακίνητοι)—The present imperative *ginesthe* (γίνεσθε, "become, be") indicates ongoing command. *Hedraioi* (έδραῖοι, "steadfast, firm, settled") depicts solid foundation, immovable stability. *Ametakinētoi* (ἀμετακίνητοι, "immovable, unshakeable") adds emphasis—not moved from the gospel foundation. Resurrection hope produces perseverance (1 Thessalonians 1:3, Hebrews 6:19).

Always abounding in the work of the Lord (περισσεύοντες ἐν τῷ ἔργῳ τοῦ κυρίου πάντοτε)—The present participle *perisseuontes* (περισσεύοντες, "abounding, overflowing, excelling") indicates lavish, generous, abundant labor. *En tō ergō tou kyriou* (ἐν τῷ ἔργῳ τοῦ κυρίου, "in the work of the Lord") encompasses all kingdom service. **Forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord** (εἰδότες ὅτι ὁ κόπος ὑμῶν οὐκ ἔστιν κενὸς ἐν κυρίῳ)—The perfect participle *eidotes* (εἰδότες, "knowing") indicates settled conviction. *Kopos* (κόπος, "labor, toil, hard work") is never *kenos* (κενός, "empty, vain") in the Lord.

Resurrection guarantees Christian service is never wasted—all kingdom labor will be vindicated and rewarded.

Historical Context

Paul concludes the greatest resurrection chapter in Scripture with practical application. Doctrine produces duty; orthodoxy produces orthopraxy. Because resurrection is certain, believers can labor sacrificially, knowing nothing done for Christ is wasted. This verse has sustained martyrs, missionaries, and suffering saints across two millennia.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does resurrection certainty produce steadfastness and immovability in Christian life?
2. What does 'abounding' in the Lord's work look like practically—how does resurrection hope motivate service?
3. How does knowing your labor is 'not in vain' enable perseverance through suffering, discouragement, and apparent failure?

Interlinear Text

Ωστε	ἀδελφοί	μου	ἀγαπητοί	έδραῖοι	γίνεσθε				
Therefore	brethren	my	beloved	stedfast	be ye				
G5620	G80	G3450	G27	G1476	G1096				
ἀμετακίνητοι	περισσεύοντες	ἐν	τῷ	ἔργῳ	τοῦ	κυρίῳ			
unmoveable	abounding	in	G3588	the work	G3588	of the Lord			
G277	G4052	G1722	G2041			G2962			
πάντοτε	εἰδότες	ὅτι	ό	κόπος	ὑμῶν	οὐκ	ἔστιν		
always	forasmuch as ye know	that	G3588	labour	your	not	is		
G3842	G1492	G3754	G2873	G5216	G3756	G2076			
κενὸς	ἐν	κυρίῳ							
in vain	in	of the Lord							
G2756	G1722	G2962							

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2 Chronicles 15:7 (Parallel theme): Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

Hebrews 6:10 (Love): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Philippians 2:16 (Parallel theme): Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

1 Corinthians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Colossians 1:23 (Parallel theme): If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (Love): Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Psalms 55:22 (References Lord): Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Hebrews 13:21 (Parallel theme): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 16:10 (References Lord): Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

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