

Living Beyond the Resurrection!

Ephesians 1:18-20 (NIV)

18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

"Empty Me!"

2 Kings 4:1-7 (NIV)

"Filled with the Spirit!"

Ephesians 5:18-21 (NKJV)

"Go Beyond! It Matters!"

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

1. Go Beyond!

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

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.

Philippians 1:9 (NKJV)

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

Colossians 2:7 (NKJV)

7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NKJV)

12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you,

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV)

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

What a word Paul gives to the countless Christians who work and pray and give and suffer as little as they can! How can we be satisfied with the trivial, insignificant, short-lived things of the world? How can we "take it easy" when so many around us are dead spiritually and so many fellow believers are in need of edification, encouragement, and help of every sort? When can a Christian say, "I've served my time, I've done my part; let others do the work now"? . . .

Until the Lord returns there are souls to reach and ministries of every sort to be accomplished. Every Christian should work uncompromisingly as the Lord has gifted and leads. Our money, time, energy, talents, gifts, bodies, minds, and spirits should be invested in nothing that does not in some way contribute to **the work of the Lord**.

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2. It Matters!

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

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.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV)

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NKJV)

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NKJV)

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

1 Corinthians 15:30-32 (NKJV)

30 And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? 31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage *is it* to me? If *the* dead do not rise, "*Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!*"

1 Corinthians 3:8 (NKJV)

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Philippians 2:16 (NKJV)

16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

1 Thessalonians 3:5 (NKJV)

5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.