

MESSAGE

Occasion : Morning Worship
Date : February 7, 2016

TITLE : VIRTUES IN THE WORK OF THE LORD
Text/s :

1 Cor 15:58

58 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.
(KJV)

Bible Reading :

Ps 66

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:

2 Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.

3 Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

4 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah.

5 Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

6 He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

7 He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

8 O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:

9 Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.

10 For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

11 Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins.

12 Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

13 I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows,

14 Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble.

15 I will offer unto thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with goats. Selah.

16 Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

17 I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue.

18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

20 Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

KJV

Song/s :

INTRODUCTION

It has been suggested that the word “therefore” which introduces the three virtues in our text is “like the nail on which hang three companion photographs.” This three-fold cord comes at the end of Paul’s “Magna Carta of the Resurrection,” illustrating that the highest heavenly hopes that we have, have a most powerful bearing on the everyday work given us to as a church.

Vision enables us to achieve the utmost in our vocation. Paul never divorced position from practice, doctrine from duty, and our life in Christ in the heavenlies from our life and labor on earth for Him.

When Paul used the word “therefore” he implied that because of all he had set forth concerning the fact of the resurrection and the life hereafter, that we should presently live lives worthy of all that awaits us. As we toil on, awaiting our final salvation from this sinful world, we must not grow weak and fainthearted, thinking that our work for God and His cause is wasted - because our “labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

A) Be Stedfast

Although Paul had his visions and revelations, he was no more visionary. Here, as he speaks about the glorious hope that awaits us, he never meant such a blessed future to foster a dreamy sentimental joy, but to be translated into a strong working force.

The word “stedfast” which occurs 20 times in the Bible, is represented by several Hebrew and Greek words. Here, it is presented to mean “a seat,” and denotes one who is seated or settled, and speaks metaphorically of moral and spiritual fixity or stability. Some scholars even think that the word stedfast can be used in a military sense as indicating a “solid front,” meaning, having no gap in the ranks when marching to battle. Paul commends the Colosians for their stedfastness in Christ.

Col 2:5

5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.
(KJV)

- **God is the perfection of stability**

Dan 6:26

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.
(KJV)

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
(KJV)

Mal 3:6

6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
(KJV)

Ps 93:1-2

1 The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.
2 Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.
(KJV)

- **Jesus manifested this divine quality**

Luke 9:51

51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,
(KJV)

Isa 50:5-9

5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.
6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

9 Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

(KJV)

- **The Word of God is steadfast**

Heb 2:2

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

(KJV)

Ps 96:10

10 Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.

(KJV)

- **The disciples were steadfast**

Acts 2:42

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

(KJV)

Acts 7:55

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

(KJV)

Phil 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

(KJV)

- **We are exhorted further to be steadfast**

Heb 3:14

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

(KJV)

1 Pet 5:8-9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

(KJV)

B) Be Unmoveable

Marcus Aurelius is credited with having said, “Stand firm like a rock against which the waves batter, yet it stands unmoved, till they fall to rest at last.”



The way Paul uses the term “unmoveable” in our text indicate an establishment in the faith as related to assault from temptation or persecution. There is only one other place in the Scripture where the word is used...

Acts 27:41

41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

(KJV)

- Be not moved away but continue in faith, grounded and settled

Col 1:23

23 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;
KJV

- Be not moved by bonds and afflictions

Acts 20:22-24

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

KJV

- Be not moved as Paul was not moved...

2 Cor 4:1

4 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

KJV

2 Cor 4:8-9

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

KJV

2 Cor 6:4-10

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

KJV

2 Cor 4:16-18

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

KJV

2 Cor 11:24-29

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;
26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;
27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.
28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.
29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?
KJV

Such position was like Paul's firm witness for the truth. Like the psalmist...

Ps 119:31

31 I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame.
(KJV)

Some are unmoveable in the wrong sense!

Ps 10:4-6

4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

5 His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them.

6 He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity.
(KJV)

Eph 6:13

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

(KJV)

Ps 121:2-3

2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

(KJV)

C) Be Always Abounding

The word here "means to overflow," "to exceed a fixed number or measure;" is used of a flower going from bud to full bloom.

- Be abounding in love

Phil 4:12

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

KJV

Phil 1:9

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;
KJV

1 Thess 3:12

12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:
KJV

2 Thess 1:3

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;
KJV

Matt 24:12

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
KJV

- Be abounding in hope

Rom 15:13

13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
KJV

- Be abounding in faith (which pleases God)

1 Thess 4:1

4 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.
KJV

- Be abounding in thanksgiving

Col 2:7

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
KJV

- Be abounding in fruits

Phil 4:17

17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.
KJV

2 Peter 1:5-8

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and **abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

- Be abounding in every good work

2 Cor 9:8

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

(KJV)

2 Cor 8:7

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

(KJV)

We should abound in the work of the Lord in the areas of

- 1) Faith
- 2) Utterance
- 3) Knowledge
- 4) All diligence
- 5) Love for the work
- 6) Grace of giving

- Be abounding with blessings

Prov 28:20

20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

KJV