

L11 | Spiritual Life | "The Labor of the Word of Truth" | Col. 1:21-29

I. Intro/Review:

1. The Intake of the Word of Truth
 - The Power, Purpose, Medium, and Means
2. The Digestion of the Word of Truth
 - Reading
 - Studying
 - Believing
 - Meditating
 - Praying

II. Preview:

1. The Labor of the Word of Truth
 1. Labor in Digestion
 2. The Fruit of Thy Labor

III. Sermon:

- Labor - to grow weary, tired, exhausted (with toil or burdens or grief); to labour with wearisome effort, to toil - of bodily labour
 - Matt. 11:28 - "...labour and are heavy laden"
 - Luk. 5:5 - Simon fishing - "we have toiled"
 - Jhn 4:6 - Jesus tired by journey - "Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey"
 - Acts 20:35 - "so labouring ye ought to support the weak"
 - 1 Cor. 4:12 - "and labour, working with our own hands"
 - 2 Tim. 2:6 - "the husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits."
 - Rev. 2:3 - "hast laboured, and hast not fainted"
 - Labor causes one to be heavy laden from ones toil to the point of weariness and fainting
1. **Labor in Digestion**
 - 1 Tim. 5:17 - "labour in the word and doctrine"
 - Reading, studying, learning, meditating, praying (Col. 4:12 - labouring fervently for you in prayers)
 - Much study is a weariness of the flesh (Ecc. 12:12)
 2. **The Fruit of Thy Labor**
 - Rom. 16:12 - "laboured much in the Lord."
 - 1 Cor. 15:9-11 - preaching
 - Gal. 4:11 - "bestowed upon you labour in vain"
 - Php. 2:16 - "neither laboured in vain"
 - 1 The. 5:12 - "labour among you, and are over you in the Lord"

- Preach the word
- Work of an evangelist
- Distributing (from the work of your hands to give)
- Rejoicing - weeping
- Feeding and giving drink

1. Whatsoever You Do

- 1 Cor. 10:31 - "...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
- Gal. 6:7 - "for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall He also reap."
- Php. 4:8-10
- Col. 3:17 - "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."
- Col. 3:23 - "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"
- Faith works
 - Gal. 5:6 - "but faith which worketh by love"
- Love works
 - Gal. 5:13 - by love serve one another
 - Rom. 13 - "no ill"
 - 1 Cor. 16:14 - let all your things be done with charity

1. Learn to Do

- Gal. 6:7-10
- Eph. 4:20-32 (2:10)
- Titus 3:14 - "...and let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."
 - Luke 8:11-15

3. Learn to Do in Relationships

- Church
 - Eph. 4 - forbearing; keeping, one anothering
 - Older to younger, younger to older
 - Men to women, women to men
 - Men to men, women to women
- Marriage
 - Eph. 5 -
- Parenting
 - Eph. 6
- Work
 - Laboring night and day - 1 The. 2
 - Masters/servants - Eph. 6; 1 Tim. 6
- Government

IV. Conclusion:

- If you examine the scriptures, if you are a student of the scriptures you will learn you are to be doing (by, in, after, and through the Spirit in and by love).
- We did not start in this Spiritual Life series with the "labor of the word of truth"; however, we are nearing the end and this is where it ends up.
 - A supernatural process of being made dead to sin (casting off of the deadness of outer seed), and quickened by God unto God for the purpose of growth with the nourishing conditions of the word of God in our inner man that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit and it may work in others.
 - Thus, Christ in us is the herb bearing seed to be able to grow and mature, have fruit with seed in itself, to be planted and done to others.
- If you are a Christian and you don't bear fruit, if you are not willfully engaging in good works then God is not working in your life (for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do His good pleasure {Php. 2:13})
 - Spiritual infirmity
 - Wrong in doctrine - as if God by-passes your will and supernaturally causes you to do what you don't want to do
 - Wrong in doctrine - good works don't just happen, but do become more and more natural
 - Wrong in doctrine - just knowledge
- If you have been a Christian and you know so much but you are not engaging in good works - a greater spiritual predicament
 - You know what you ought to know - to do what you ought to do
 - Knowledge puffeth up - your spiritual life only consists of knowledge (your growth is how you can teach or persuade in the truth, yet you sound nothing like Christ, or look nothing like Him)
 - You have gone to sleep, bored with the Christian life - enticed by the dainties of this life - or overtaken and encumbered by the cares of this life that make you become unfruitful.
- 1 The. 4:1 - abound more and more
 - More people
 - More places
 - More times
 - More provision
 - Vastness of the love of Christ - dwelling richly in you - will reach far to those around you and impact your time