



# THE THREAD

*weaving Sunday's message through the week*

**Date:** April 25, 2021

**Passage:** 1 Corinthians 15:58b

1. Q #1: What is "the work of the Lord"?
  - a. Evangelism – proclaiming the gospel to those not in Christ
  - b. Edification – building up the Church through service
  - c. Paul has in mind a particular work with a particular goal after the mission of Christ = salvation of the spiritually dead and maturity of the spiritually alive (1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:28)
  - d. The normal spheres of your life are the contexts in which this gospel work is to be done
2. Q #2: Are all Christians called to this work?
  - a. Yes, as ambassadors and as Christ's body
  - b. Ambassadors (Matthew 5:13-16; John 17:18, 21-23; 2 Corinthians 4:13, 5:20-21)
  - c. Christ's body (1 Corinthians 14:12; Rom. 12:9-21; Eph. 4:1-7; Col. 3:12-17; 1 Pet. 4:7-11)
3. Q #3: What should we expect of this work?
  - a. "toil"; "agony"; "labor"; "struggle"; "opposition" (Pauline language)
  - b. 1 Corinthians 3:5-16; Philippians 1:21-26, 2:16-18
  - c. "strenuous exertion toward a purposeful goal" (salvation and maturity)
  - d. Fruitfulness and joy
  - e. Reward (Matt. 25:14-30; 2 Cor. 5:10; Col. 3:24; Rev. 20:13)
4. Q #4: What motivates our work?
  - a. The resurrection of Christ (past event) and our resurrection with Christ (future reality)
  - b. We will all be raised – 1 Cor. 15:51; Acts 24:15

- i. Those not in Christ will be raised to judgment, therefore we proclaim Christ
    - ii. Those in Christ will be raised to life, therefore we build up believers in their faith
    - iii. The Church, building itself up in love, in the most compelling apologetic for the gospel message, therefore we labor to this end
5. Q #5: What marks those who "abound in the work of the Lord"?
  - a. Humility, gentleness (meekness), joy, hope, confidence
  - b. Galatians 5:22-25 (fruits of the Spirit)

God's strategy for accomplishing his redemptive mission in the world is for every member of his church to labor in the evangelistic and edifying work of the Lord.

**POINT:** The resurrection *of* Christ (past) and our resurrection *with* Christ (future) compel believers to pour their lives out in the proclamation of the gospel and the building up of the Church.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How involved are you in the gospel work of *proclamation* and *edification* (*building up believers*)?
2. What keeps you from giving yourself to this work? (Lack of conviction, skill, fear, apathy, busyness, insecurity, etc.)?
3. How does the resurrection serve as both a motivator and confidence for this two-fold work?
4. How do your normal realms of life help you discern how to go about this work?
5. Who has God placed in your life that you can begin praying for?
6. Are you connected enough to the body of Christ to be able to build up other believers in their faith? What gifts or opportunities do you have to do this work?
7. How does isolation keep you from "abounding in the work of the Lord"? Is isolation an acceptable excuse according to these passages?
8. Are there any changes that need to be made in your life so that you might begin to give yourself to this gospel work?

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