

Not In Vain

Intro:

Ps 49:1-12

Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish...(ecc 2-3)

We are forced into a terrible split - on the one hand we know and can sense that we are somehow more unique and, than animals. We build majestic towers and beautiful art. We write literature and invent medicine and machines...and then we die...and then we are forgotten...

Matt McCullough, author of the book "remember Death" says it this way:

Death is not the natural end to a merely biological life. Death is an intrusion into the perfect world of the Creator designed by that same Creator to make a point. Death is a punishment for human pride. It exposes our foolish confidence in our freedom to be whoever we want to be.

(McCullough, Matt . Remember Death (Gospel Coalition) (p. 68). Crossway. Kindle Edition.)

Problem:

Ps 49:13-15

Foolish confidence...approve their boasts...

The corinthians were buying into the lie of this world...the lie that death was exposing all around them if they would pay attention...

1 cor 1:26-31

What did it mean to boast in the Lord? What about status nobility meaning?

1 cor 15:50-58

His resurrection is proof and a preview of life - Eternal life

This is not just the rebuttal to a people focused on false status but a declaration of a real boast over a previously meaningless life...because of the Res. Your res. Your labor, right now, is not in vain...

Which brings us to this last chapter...

Main Idea:

Our charity is not in vain

Our communion is not in vain

Our concern is not in vain

Our compliance is not in vain

Our closeness is not in vain

Implication:

Matt 8:1-13

Why did Jesus touch the Leper?

Because it mattered...in the real actual physical world...it mattered

Application:

Rom 12:1-2

God did not do His work in some abstract sphere but in the real actual world...and it matters that we do too

Articles for further study:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/your-labor-is-not-vain/>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/present-your-bodies-as-a-living-sacrifice-to-god>

<http://www.barabbas.com/sermons-book/?>

[sapurl=Lys0OTViL2xiL21pLyt2cm5ueTg3P2JyYW5kaW5nPXRYdWUmZW1iZWQ9dHJ1ZQ==](http://www.barabbas.com/sermons-book/?sapurl=Lys0OTViL2xiL21pLyt2cm5ueTg3P2JyYW5kaW5nPXRYdWUmZW1iZWQ9dHJ1ZQ==)

https://cdn.subsplash.com/documents/Z9H3R5/_source/3943d9a7-789d-4937-ab8e-1b3780565641/document.pdf

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Text:

Our charity is not in vain

1 Corinthians 16:1 ¶ Now concerning **the collection (logia extra collection) for the saints**: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

1 Corinthians 16:3 And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to **carry your gift (grace/charity) to Jerusalem**.

1 Corinthians 16:4 If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

- Acts 21:15-22 (presumably with an offering - doesn't seem to work - gave glory - your charity is not in vain...why?)
- mk 14:3-9 (your charity now has meaning...in the Lord your labor is not in vain)

Our cooperation is not in vain

1 Corinthians 16:5 ¶ I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia,

1 Corinthians 16:6 and perhaps **I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go**.

1 Corinthians 16:7 For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.

1 Corinthians 16:8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,

1 Corinthians 16:9 for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Corinthians 16:10 ¶ When Timothy comes, see that you **put him at ease among you**, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.

1 Corinthians 16:11 So **let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace**, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

- Phil 1:3-7 (your cooperation is not in vain...specifically)
- heb 13:1-3, 16 (your hospitality is not in vain...why?)
- 1 Cor 12 (your cooperation now has meaning...In the Lord your labor is not in vain)

Our concern is not in vain

1 Corinthians 16:12 ¶ Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but **it was not at all his will to come now**. He will come when he has opportunity.

1 Corinthians 16:13 ¶ Be **watchful**, stand **firm** in the faith, act like **men**, be **strong**.

1 Corinthians 16:14 **Let all that you do be done in love**.

- (1 cor 1:12; 3:5-7 (Apollos careful)
- 1 cor 8:1; 10:23; 14:4-5, 12, 17, 26; (13:1-13 (our concern is not in vain...why?)
- 1 John 4:1-12, 16, 19 (your concern now has meaning (13:34-35)...in the Lord your labor is not it vain)

Our compliance is not in vain

1 Corinthians 16:15 ¶ Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints—

1 Corinthians 16:16 **be subject** to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer.

1 Corinthians 16:17 I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence,

1 Corinthians 16:18 for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. **Give recognition** to such people.

- 1 thess 5:12-13 (your compliance is not in vain...why?)
- heb 13:7-8, 17 (your compliance now has meaning (eph 4:11-12)...in the Lord your labor is not in vain)

Our closeness is not in vain

1 Corinthians 16:19 ¶ The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 16:20 All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1 Corinthians 16:21 ¶ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

1 Corinthians 16:22 If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!

1 Corinthians 16:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

1 Corinthians 16:24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

- (rom 16:16; 2 cor 13:12; 1 thess 5:26 (your closeness, your affection, is not in vain...why?)
- (1 cor 6:18-20 (your closeness now has meaning...in the Lord your labor is not in vain)