

## **Analysis Of 1 Corinthians 15:58**

### **No. 286**

#### **Introduction.**

- I. The apostle Paul wrote these words in 1 Corinthians the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter. (1 Cor. 15:3, 4).
  - A. Paul next lists some of the eyewitnesses of the resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:5-8).
  - B. Paul then addresses some false teachers who denied the resurrection of Christ, and give the horrible consequences of denying the resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:12-19).

**12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.**

- C. Paul next boldly exclaims. (1 Cor. 15:20-23).
- D. Paul answers such questions as, “**How are the dead raised?** (1 Cor. 15:35-44).

**35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" 36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; 37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;**

**43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.**

II. In the closing part of 1 Corinthians the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter Paul penned these words of inspiration and exhortation. (1 Cor. 15:50-58).

**50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We all shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law: 57 but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.**

III. There are many truths revealed in this comforting chapter of 1 Corinthians 15, but our lesson I would like for us to carefully analyze the great truths revealed in verse 58.

I. **The People Addressed** - In the first place, let us consider the people addressed.

A. This verse is addressed to Christians.

B. Paul said, **“Wherefore, my beloved brethren.”**

1. Christians are here and elsewhere called “brethren” because they are all members of the same family - God’s family.
2. We have become members of God’s family through the process of the new birth. (Jn. 3:1-5).
3. Christians are called “beloved” because they are dearly loved by God and all who love God.
4. We are bound together by love. (Col. 3:14).

II. **The Precepts Advocated** - In the second place, let us consider the precepts advocated.

A. Paul said, “Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

1. **“Be ye steadfast”** mean be “faithful, consistent.”
2. **“Unmovable”** means to be “convicted, loyal, unwavering.”

3. “**Always**” means be “continuing, never ceasing.”

4 “**Abounding**” means to be “overflowing.”

B. Christians are to abound (overflow) “in the work of the Lord.”

1. The work of the Lord is to **seek and save the lost**. (Lk. 19:10).

a. Since Jesus abounded in saving of souls, this is what Christians should be doing.

b. Jesus said. (Matt.28:19, 20).

2. The work of the Lord is to **do good to others**. (Acts 10:38).

a. Christians ought to stay busy doing good to others.

b. The world is full of hungry people, of lonely people, of handicapped people, of discouraged people.

c. We cannot help everyone, but the one who abounds in the work of the Lord will bless scores of lives.

d. **Let us heed the words of Paul**. (Tit. 2:14; Gal. 6:9, 10).

III. **The Promised Advanced** - In the third place let us consider the promise advanced.

A. “For as much as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.” Paul does not waste a single word. All are important.

1. “**Ye know**” is the **certainty** of the promise.

2. “**Your labor**” is the **condition** of the promise.

3. “**Is not in vain**” is the **consolation** of the promise.

4. “**In the Lord**” is the **circumference** of the promise.

B. **This is a great promise**.

1. Much of our labor in life is vain, but our labor is not vain in the Lord. It will be rewarded.

2. Our labor will likely result in the **salvation of others**.

3. It will **result in our salvation**. Those who labor in the Lord will enjoy eternal life.

a. They will be **raised from the dead**. (Jn. 5:28, 29; 6:40; 11:25).

b. They will be **raised with an incorruptible body**. (1 Cor. 15:53).

c. They will **bear the image of Christ**. (1 Cor. 15:49; Phil. 3:21).

d. They will **ascend to meet Jesus in the air**. (1 Thess. 4:17).

e. They will **spend eternity with God in heaven**. (Rev. 22:5).

## Conclusion.

- I. Beloved brethren, let us always abound in the word of the Lord. It is the greatest work in the world and it will bring the greatest blessings in the world. Let us wear ourselves out in God's glorious service.
- II. **The president of great railroad lay dying.** Gripping the hand of his son he said to him, "Son, you are holding the hand of the greatest failure in the world." The son said, "Father, you haven't been a failure. You have built a great railroad empire. You have millions of dollars. You have employed thousands of people." "Yes," replied the father, "but in doing all of this I have left Christ out, and the man who does this is a failure, no matter what else he may do in life."

### A. **The man was right.**

1. We may amass a great fortune. We may count our friends in the thousands.
2. We may rise to great heights in this world, but any man who leaves Christ out of his life is a dismal failure. He has little to live for in this life, and nothing to look forward to in the life to come.

### B. Jesus said what is a man profited if she shall **gain the whole** world and lose his own soul?

1. What shall it profit a man if he can **speak many languages** but not the language of the kingdom of heaven?
2. What shall it profit a man if he knows **all the constellations in the heavens**, and does not know Jesus Christ, the Bright and Morning Star?
3. What shall it profit a man if he **be a mighty mathematician** and yet cannot figure the value of the soul?
4. What shall it profit a man if he be **a great biologist** and not know Jesus - the Great Physician?
5. What shall it profit a man if he be **a great geologist**, and now know Jesus, the Rock of Ages?
6. What shall it profit a man if he be **a great lawyer** and does not know Jesus, the sinner's Advocate at the bar of heaven?
7. What shall it profit a man if he be **a great philosopher**, and not know Jesus who is the truth and wisdom of God?
8. What shall it profit a man if he knows he is a great sinner and needs to be saved, but he does not know Jesus, the Lamb of God?
9. What shall it profit a man if **all things are his**, but he does not belong to Jesus?

## III. **The answer is sad, but an emphatic nothing.**

- A. **Everything is vain, useless, futile without Christ.** Without Christ we cannot have the abundant life now and in the future we will not have the abundant life with God.
- B. Don't live a life of uselessness. Come to Christ today! You will gain the best things in life and in eternity. Come as we stand and sing.

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