

WORK THAT MATTERS

Practical implications of the resurrection

Everyone lives for something, but will your thing matter?

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1Cor 15:58)

(1-57) “Therefore,” considering the truth of the gospel...

1. STAND FIRM on the Word of God

“be steadfast, immovable”

Jesus has not stopped acting and speaking. He is resurrected and at work in our world. He is not idle, nor has he developed laryngitis. He is alive and among us as our Priest to forgive us, our Prophet to teach us, our King to rule us, our Shepherd to guide us.

(Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*)

2. GIVE YOURSELVES FULLY to the work of God

“always abounding in the work of the Lord”

The Master-workman surely has a right to use any tool He pleases for His own work, and it is plainly not the business of the tool to decide whether it is the right one to be used or not.... The tool does not question the builder but simply allows itself to be used.

(Hannah Whitall Smith, *Devotional Classics*)

3. IT DOES MATTER! IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

“knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord”

Master, thou workest with such common things—
Low souls, weak hearts, I mean—and hast to use,
Therefore, such common means and rescuings,
That hard we find it, as we sit and muse,
To think thou workest in us verily:
Bad sea-boats we and manned with wretched crews—
That doubt the captain, watch the storm-spray flee.

(George MacDonald, *The Diary of an Old Soul*)

RESPONSE