

My Lord, My Love, My Labor Romans 16:12

One of the wonderful things about resting in the person and work of Jesus Christ is that you get to the place where you don't have to DO anything in order to feel His acceptance. You know you are in the place of grace when you pass the test of rest. Paul understood the great doctrines of grace, but yet when he greets these three women in the church at Rome he says of them, "*They labored much in the Lord.*" The NIV says, "*They worked hard.*" There is in Scripture both a call to rest and a call to work; they are not exclusive.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58).

Our work in the Lord is to be always (not just on Sundays), abounding (not just a little work), and it will become a great accomplishment (it's not in vain). What is this work?

I. This work to which we are called is a selfless work . . .

There is an interesting parable given by Christ regarding the hard work of a man who farmed his land and prospered greatly (Luke 12:16-21). He is called a fool because he tore down his barns and built bigger barns --- the KJV says, "*He laid up treasure for himself, and was not rich toward God*" (v.21). What did he do wrong?

*The chief error of this wealthy man was that he grew content, became satisfied and said to himself: "Eat, drink and be merry." **He never considered that the purpose of our labor is that we might work for the benefit of others,***" Russian Alexander Men.

What did you do yesterday that was entirely selfless? That was the work of God.

II. This work to which we are called is spiritual work . . .

When you identify something that you do that is selfless, you will find the Spirit of God. Sin has "I" in the middle. The selfless things you do have the Spirit in them.

- (1). Do you teach a Sunday School lesson?
- (2). Do you listen to a coworker as he shares his problems?
- (3). Do you confront a brother in his sin?
- (4). Do you mow a lawn? Prepare a meal? Make a visit?

The Spirit of God will use that which you do to bring about change in another person's heart. The selfless act touches the heart of the person who receives it.

III. This work to which we are called is a satisfying work . . .

*"Forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in **vain** in the Lord"* (I Cor. 15:58). Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, looked at life and said, "*All is vanity.*" Find something on a daily basis you do for the Lord – selfless and spiritual, and watch your satisfaction level rise as you increase your work "in the Lord."