Always Abounding

Tony Mauck · 1 Corinthians 15:58

INTRODUCTION

- Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, as much as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- What are all of these passages saying to us? They're saying, hang in there.
- I just want to affirm to you that everybody gets tired. I'm talking about spiritual weariness.

1 No Reason for Extreme Despair

2 Chronicles 33

- The good news is that there is no reason for extreme despair. We must not allow past failure to demoralize us or to prevent progress.
- But the good news is that we don't have to be crippled by whatever's back there.
- We must repent. We must express godly sorrow and be determined to move in a better direction in regard to our past.
- When he was in distress, he entreated the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.
- If God can have compassion and mercy on a man like this, who would ultimately lead Judah to its ruination? Will he not have compassion and mercy upon us?

2 I Know Your Deeds

Revelation 2; Revelation 3; Psalm 147:4–5

- You know what he says to every one of the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3? He says, I know your deeds.
- Whatever our deeds are as a church, rest assured the Lord knows everything about it. His understanding is infinite.
- There is hope at the end of each of those letters if they would repent of the things that needed to be fixed.
- I think we've experienced spiritual growth, and that's very important.
- We need to be thankful for men who care about souls more than they care about physical buildings.

3 But I Have This Against You

Colossians 3:16; James 1

- However, in five of the seven churches, these words appear. But I have this against you.
- Do we worship the Lord fervently? Do we find ourselves just going through the motions?

- Could we be more joyful in opportunities to be a servant of others as Jesus was joyous over his service of all mankind?
- Are we allowing the word to richly dwell within us, shaping our thoughts and our character?
- Am I living by my faith? Am I a person of faith every day?

4 We Must Always Abound

Philippians 3:13–14; 1 Thessalonians 4

- So we must then always abound, regardless of what's in our past.
- I forget those things which are behind and press forward to those things that are before.
- No matter where I have been, the fact is the call of the gospel is upward.
- There are two extremes to be avoided here. Number one, since the ideal is not achieved, do nothing.
- The second extreme is we must not rest on the laurels of our past.
- We have an urgent mission as God's people. That is to be Christlike, to be people of faith, to have an interest in souls.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you keeping at it? Or have you grown tired? Have you left off in the pursuit of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?

MY NOTES