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### Always Give Yourself Fully to the Work of the Lord - Pastor Greg

*<sup>58</sup> 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 labour in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58 (New International Version, ©2011)*

I love this verse because it is so encouraging. There is so much that can deter us from giving our lives fully to the work of the Lord: difficulties and disappointments; our own fleshly thinking; trouble and hardship; opposition, etc. But, Paul urges us to stand firm and not to be moved away. **With whatever we face, or are going through, we can give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord knowing it is not in vain. Why? Because, God sees it and honours our work and rewards it.** Hebrews 6:10 says that God does not 'forget' our work and love we have shown Him as we have helped His people. The idea of God remembering in the Bible is that He follows through with His promises; He acts fulfilling His Covenant Word to us.

**God values the work we do for His glory, and so should we.** We, in our church, are engaged in the work of the Lord. We need to value it and believe that our work will bring fruit by God's grace. I think of our World Missions involvement: we are reaching the nations for Christ. Don't underestimate the effectiveness of our partnership with people in other countries. I think of our local ministry and mission: we are sharing Christ with people; we are a light to our community; we are proclaiming the good news to people (I was moved when I heard Gary recently led his Aunty to the Lord only days before she passed away. Praise God!); we are making disciples and building up the church.

So, as Ecclesiastes says, we need to keep casting our bread upon the waters because it will return to us after a time (Eccl. 11). In the same passage it says when we sow liberally we do not know which of our sowing will do well, whether this, or that, or both, but we should continue to 'sow'.

In Galatians 6:9 it says for us to not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest **if we do not give up.**



I thank God for the people who sowed their time and love into my life when I was a young man. I lost contact with most of them, some have gone home to be with the Lord, and most of them did not see for themselves the fruit of their work in me in all the years since. But, I'm sure one day they will get a pleasant surprise when they discover their labour was not in vain.

When we sow, we sow seed that we put into the ground as it were. We do not see it, and we may not see all the fruit the seed will bring. This is the nature of seed time and harvest. But, Let's keep sowing into people's lives! Let's continue to 'cast our bread upon the waters'.

### **What is the work of the Lord? In a nut shell - "PEOPLE reached with the gospel and disciplined"**

It's bringing people to Christ and Christ to people. It's sharing with them the good news that can save them. It's making disciples of people. It's using our time, talents, and treasure to love, reach, heal, disciple people, and to help them to grow to maturity in Christ SO THAT they can go out and do the same. All our church activities are to this end, and to ultimately glorify Christ. This is the work of the Lord, from the other side of the footpath to the other side of the world.

**Why do we do this?** Because we love the Lord and desire all others to come to know His love. This is our motivation. The best way to get a child to put a lot of work into piano practice is to get them to fall in love with piano music. It's not so much the work, but our love for God and His for us that motivates us. Paul said the Love of Christ constrained Him – moved Him, motivated Him, compelled Him (2 Cor. 5:14).

*Stand firm then, let nothing move you. Give yourself fully to the Work of the Lord, for you know your labour is not in vain!*