

# Christian Constancy

Intro: As a basis for our study turn to 1 Cor. 15:58 “<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” Paul in this chapter discusses the resurrection. Paul proves its certainty and exhibits its glory. Having done this, he makes a practical application of this in verse 58.

## I. HIS AFFECTIONATE APPROACH.

### A. “My Beloved Brethren”

### B. Christians are brethren.

1. They have the same Father.
  - a. Mat. 6:9 “<sup>9</sup> After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
  - b. Mat. 7:11 “<sup>11</sup> If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
2. Members of the same family—the church.
  - a. 1 Tim. 3:15 “<sup>15</sup> But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
  - b. Being born into the same family by means of the new birth.
3. They possess the same nature.

### C. Christians are objects of love.

1. By God:
  - a. John 3:16 “<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
  - b. 1 John 4:8 “<sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
2. By each other: 1 John 4:20-21 “<sup>20</sup> If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? <sup>21</sup> And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”
3. It is this heavenly disposition that unites them.
  - a. Col. 3:14 “<sup>14</sup> And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”
  - b. Col. 2:2 “<sup>2</sup> That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;”
  - c. It is this disposition that will get us through trials and troubles.

## II. THE COURSE RECOMMENDED.

### A. Steadfastness.

1. One who is firmly fixed, who is not turned away.
2. Rooted and grounded in the faith.
  - a. Psa. 1:2-3 “<sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

- b. Eph. 3:17 <sup>17</sup> That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,”
- c. Col. 2:7 <sup>7</sup> Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”
- 3. Maintaining all the New Testament doctrine.
  - a. Psa. 119:160 (ASV) <sup>160</sup> The sum of thy word is truth; And every one of thy righteous ordinances *endureth* for ever.”
  - b. Pro. 23:23 <sup>23</sup> Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”
  - c. Eph. 4:13-14 <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: <sup>14</sup> That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”
  - d. Jude 3 <sup>3</sup> Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

## B. Unmovableness

- 1. One not turned aside by others.
- 2. Not moved by men.
  - a. The fear of men.
    - (1) Rom. 8:15 <sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”
    - (2) 2 Tim. 1:7 <sup>7</sup> For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”
    - (3) 1 John 4:18 <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”
  - b. The love of men.
    - (1) Mat. 10:37 <sup>37</sup> He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”
    - (2) Luke 14:26 <sup>26</sup> If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.”
- 3. By the devices of the devil.
  - a. Eph. 6:11-13 <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. <sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
  - b. 2 Cor. 2:11 <sup>11</sup> Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

## C. Abundant Work

- 1. This is the work the Lord has commanded us to do.
  - a. Preaching the gospel.
  - b. Building up the church.
  - c. Living the Christian life.

2. We must abound in this work.
  - a. An abundance, overflow of work.
  - b. Doing all we can.
3. Always doing this work.
  - a. Heb. 13:15 <sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”
  - b. 2 Tim. 4:7 <sup>7</sup> I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:”
  - c. We cannot retire.

### III. THE MOTIVE GIVEN.

#### A. Your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

#### B. Our lives are fruitful.

1. John 15:4-5 <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”
2. Producing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives; Gal. 5:22-23 <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
3. 2 Pet. 1:3-8 <sup>3</sup> According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: <sup>4</sup> Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. <sup>5</sup> And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; <sup>6</sup> And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; <sup>7</sup> And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. <sup>8</sup> For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

#### C. Our prayers are answered.

1. John 15:7 <sup>7</sup> If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”
2. Jam. 5:16 <sup>16</sup> Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

#### D. We enjoy divine blessings.

1. Eph. 1:3 <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:”
2. 2 Cor. 1:20 <sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

#### E. We shall conquer death.

1. 1 Cor. 15:51-58 <sup>51</sup> Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> 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. <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup> O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? <sup>56</sup> The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,

always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

2. Rev. 14:13 <sup>“13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” (we find peace and rest)