INTRODUCTION:
1. The Christian life is a life filled with work for the Master - 1 Cor. 3:9.
2. All of us sing of work, but few actually abound in the work of the Lord.
   A. We sing, "I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord", but do we really mean it?
      1. It is one thing to say something, and a totally other thing to fulfill that which
         we have said.
3. The work of the Lord involves the greatest privileges, responsibilities and rewards of
   any area of work known to man.

BODY:
1. THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE WORK.
   A. The admonition of Paul is addressed to "my beloved brethren."
      1. It is not addressed to elders only.
         A. Although they must set the example - 1 Pet. 5:3.
      2. It is not addressed to deacons only.
         A. Though the word deacon means "servant" - Acts 6:1-3.
      3. It is not addressed to preachers only.
         A. Though he has a work to do - 2 Tim. 2:15; 4:5.
   B. The N. T. teaches that every Christian must be a worker.
      1. The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 clearly proves this point.
         A. Even if we only have one talent, we have a work to do.
      2. The church of the Bible is pictured as a body - Rom. 12:5.
         A. As with the physical body, each member of the spiritual body of Christ has
            a function - 1 Cor. 12:12-21.
   C. There will be differences, but no exceptions.
      1. There will be differences of ability, desire, opportunity, etc.
         A. But there will be no exceptions based upon education, age, gender, etc. -
      2. There will always be a work in the church for a Paul and a Timothy; a Eunice
         and a Dorcas; a Barnabas and a Mark.

2. BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR THE WORK.
   A. Conviction, which involves steadfastness and immovability, is necessary for the
      Lord's work.
      1. The Corinthians were hindered in their work by doubts and opinions.
         A. The problem of eating meat offered to idols - chaps. 8-10.
         B. The questions of the veil and Lord's Supper - chap. 11.
         C. The importance and use of spiritual gifts - chaps. 12-14.
      2. The Philippians were admonished to be steadfast and united as they strove for
         the faith of the gospel - Phil. 1:27.
   B. The proper zeal for the Lord is impossible without strong faith and conviction -
      Jas. 2:18.
      1. Our work is in proportion to our faith, conviction and hope.

3. THE CONSTANCY OF THE WORK.
A. The religion of Christ is the religion of always.
   1. Always let your speech be with grace - Col. 4:6.
   2. Always rejoice in the Lord - Phil. 4:4.
   3. Always obey - Phil. 2:12.
   4. Always be ready to give an answer - 1 Pet. 3:15.
   5. To work always means to "Be urgent in season, out of season" - 2 Tim. 4:2.

B. Spasmodic service is not acceptable to the Lord.
   1. Always means six day a week plus Sunday.
      A. Sunday only is no good.
   2. Always means when we are watched and praised, plus when work is unseen and "unpraised".
   3. Always means during special events like Gospel Meetings, VBS, etc., along with the other weeks of the year.

C. Lack of constancy in Christian service means we are not dependable.
   1. Maybe hot, maybe cold, maybe lukewarm.
   2. It also means we are taking a chance on our eternal salvation.

4. THE FERVOR OF THE WORK
   A. The Greek word translated "abounding" is an interesting study.
      1. It is the word "perisseuo" meaning "to be over and above; excel."
      2. It is used of excelling others - Mt. 5:20.
      3. It is used of exceeding the minimum - Lk. 15:17.
      4. It is used of exceeding what was done in the past - Mk. 15:14.
   B. Christian service must be abounding service.
      1. Abounding service is willing service.
         A. The eleventh hour men illustrate this point - Mt. 20:1-16.
      2. Abounding service is fervent service - Rom. 12:11.
         A. The idea of being heated to a boil.
      3. Abounding service is from the heart - Eph. 6:6.
      4. Abounding service is first place service - Mt. 6:33.

5. THE MOTIVES FOR THE WORK.
   A. The final resurrection.
      1. The "Wherefore" connects with the preceding verses.
         A. The entire chapter is a discussion of the resurrection and immortality.
      2. Paul's point is, in view of the fact that there will be a life beyond this one, work - Rev. 14:13.
         A. The future life is reason for all to abound in the work of the Lord.
   B. The final judgment.
      1. The "forasmuch" introduces the day of reckoning.
         A. The judgment day will be a day of accounting - 2 Cor. 5:10.
         B. It will be a day of reward - Gal. 6:9.
   C. Our labor for the Lord is not in vain.
      1. Often in this life our work is in vain.
   D. The certainty of God's word is the certainty of the reward of our labors for Christ.

6. THE NATURE OF THE WORK.
   A. Although not included in 1 Corinthians 15:58, the work of the Lord is that work
He has commanded us to do, and gives Him the glory and honor due Him.
1. To work for the Lord means to do God's will - John 4:34.
2. To work for the Lord means to honor Him - Phil. 1:20.

B. The work of the Lord is the work of:
   1. Evangelism.
      A. I.e. the proclaiming of Christ and His salvation to others - Mk. 16:16;
         Rom. 1:16.
   2. Benevolence.
      A. Sharing with those who are less fortunate - Gal. 6:10.
   3. Edification.
      A. Building ourselves up through study, worship, etc. - Eph. 4:12.

CONCLUSION:
1. Abounding in the work of the Lord means happiness here and heaven hereafter.
   A. We need to examine our Christian service and ask ourselves individually, "Am I
      abounding in the Lord's work?"
      1. Remember, the question isn't, "Am I occasionally doing the Lord's work" but,
         "Am I abounding in it?"
   2. Let us remember, "the night cometh, when no man can work" – John 9:4.