

**NEVER IN VAIN
Part Three**

- Text: 1 Cor. 15:58

I. THE _____ OF OUR SERVICE

II. THE _____ OF OUR SERVICE

III. THE _____ OF OUR SERVICE

- "Forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
- That statement is designed to transfer our focus from the "here and now" to the _____.
- We should take our eyes off the difficulties and distractions of the _____ and keep our focus on the future as we faithfully serve the Lord.
- **The purpose of the rest of your life on earth is to _____ the Lord.**
- As far as our labor for Christ is concerned, an eternal harvest is _____.
- Three truths that will help us hold our focus on the heavenly harvest:

A. The _____ of the Harvest

- "Not in vain in the Lord"
 - "The Lord" = the powerful _____ of our service Who never fails to get the job done.
 - "In vain" = empty, futile, worthless, or fruitless
 - Without the _____ of Christ, our faith would be vain (vs. 14).
 - But Christ is risen (vs. 20a), and that fact makes all the difference.
- Because we work in the power of the risen Christ, we have a certain return for our labor.
- Laboring "in the Lord" also means working "_____ the Lord," Who never works in vain.

B. The _____ of the Harvest

- "As ye know" = _____ without sight; and the primary way we know is because God has promised the harvest in His Word.
- The spiritual harvest takes _____ and has three stages—sowing, _____, and reaping.
- While we are waiting for the reaping, we need to be patient and _____ the many promises of the harvest (Gal. 6:9, 1 Cor. 3:7, John 15:5, 16, Ps. 126:5-6).
- **If you commit your life to the faithful _____ of God's Word into yourself and others, you will rejoice at harvest time.**

- But we bring forth fruit "with patience" (Luke 8:15).

C. The _____ for the Harvest

- Demonstrated by being steadfast and unmovable while waiting for the fruit to _____.
- We are never promised an _____ harvest:
 - "Work" = tasks, employment, assigned service for Christ.
 - "Labor" originally meant "to wail and beat the breast"; here it speaks of _____ effort—the toil, sweat, and tears we must put in to work the fields in the heat of the day.

CONCLUSION

- Question: What are you really working for in this life?
- If you are working for Christ in this world, you cannot be _____.
- There will be no greater joy than to hear "well done" from the lips of our precious Savior; no greater thrill that to receive an everlasting _____ from His nail-pierced hands.
- And in that day, as you look back on a life lived for Christ, you will be able to say that it was _____ in vain.