**Our Finish Line is Up Ahead**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Galatians 6:9-10**

**Sunday Morning**

**March 20, 2022**

**Galatians 6:9-10**

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Saints, in this morning's message we point out nine characteristics of our labor for the Lord in our Christian Walk. It is not only a walk of faith but also of good works that God desires us to live. It is a labor of Victory, Peace and Joy.

**1. Our Labor for the Lord is a Labor of Love.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-4**

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

Saints, all our work for the Lord should be seasoned with LOVE.

Because Saints Jesus loved us first.

**1 John 4:17-19**

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.

Saints, there is nothing you can to do make God love you more! There is nothing you can do to make God love you less! His love is Unconditional, Impartial, Everlasting, Infinite, Perfect!

**2. Our Labor in the Lord is a Labor Not in Vain**

**1 Corinthians 15:57-58**

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Saints, we are to be steadfast, unmovable and always abounding.

**1 Peter 5:6-11**

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**3. Our Labor in the Lord is a Labor known by Christ.**

**Revelation 2:1-6**

1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

Saints, God knows all about what we go through and never give us more than we can bear.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**4. Our Labor in the Lord is a Labor God does Not Forget.**

**Hebrews 6:10**

"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister"

Saints, God keeps perfect records of our service unto Him. We must continue to do good towards others!

**Hebrews 13:15-17**

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. 17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

**5. Our labor in the Lord is a Labor which is to be Done Together.**

**1 Corinthians 3:9**

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building"

Saints, we pick up our Cross and Follow Him!

**Luke 9:23-25**

23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Saints, we get in the Yoke together with Him.

**Matthew 11:28-30**

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

**6. Our Labor in the Lord is a Labor for Eternal Things.**

**Colossians 1:28-29 (New Living Translation)**

28 So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. 29 That’s why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ’s mighty power that works within me.

Saints, we will reign with him and those we win to Christ forever.

**Revelation 20:6**

"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years"

**7. Our Labor in the Lord is a Labor which is to be Rewarded.**

**1 Corinthians 3:8**

"Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor"

Saints, the Scriptures teach that the happiness or blessedness of believers in a future life will be greater or less in proportion to the service of Christ in this life.

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Saint, there's an old saying that

**"those who love little do little; and those who do little, enjoy less."**

**8. Our labor in the Lord is a Labor Done to be Accepted by Him.**

**2 Corinthians 5:9-10**

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Saints, what we should always strive to do His will and our work will always be accepted by Him.

**9. Our labor in the Lord is a Labor which doesn’t have an End until we see Him Face to Face.**

**Luke 10:2**

2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Saints, our work will not be done until the Last Day; we must keep preaching, teaching, witnessing and living the Word of God to the Nations. We need to see the harvest.

Saints, the harvest is great but workers are few. This makes us very important. We need to pray that God would send forth workers.

Saints, why did He say pray that workers would go forth into the harvest?

Saints, I believe that when we pray that God would send out workers that this give God an opportunity to speak to our hearts to go.

How many of you would like to be like the prophet Isaiah?

 **Isaiah 6:8**

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

**In Closing:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-25**

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. 25 Brethren, pray for us.

Saints, it's time now to serve the Lord with all of our might until he comes Amen!

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**