

# THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL MESSESS

A STUDY ON 1 CORINTHIANS



**The Church's Labors**

**1 Corinthians 16**

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## 1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, **always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**



**Driving Question:**  
**What do our labors in the Lord  
look like?**



## **1. We Labor in Mercy**

**1** Now about the **collection for the saints**: Do the same as I instructed the Galatian churches. **2** On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering, so that no collections will need to be made when I come.



**a. We Give to Others in Need**

**Do the same as I instructed** the Galatian churches.

**b. We Give Consistently**

**2 On the first day of the week**, each of you is to set something aside...

**c. We Give Proportionately**

... and **save in keeping with how he is prospering**, so that no collections will need to be made when I come.



## 2. We Labor in Ministry

5 I will come to you after I pass through Macedonia—for I will be traveling through Macedonia— 6 and perhaps I will remain with you or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I go. 7 I don't want to see you now just in passing, since I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord allows. 8 **But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 because a wide door for effective ministry has opened for me—yet many oppose me.**



## **a. Ministry and God's Sovereignty**

**7 I don't want to see you now just in passing, since I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord allows. 8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 because a wide door for effective ministry has opened for me...**



## **b. Ministry and God's Servants**

**10** If Timothy comes, **see that he has nothing to fear while with you, because he is doing the Lord's work, just as I am.** **11** **So let no one look down on him. Send him on his way in peace** so that he can come to me, because I am expecting him with the brothers. **12** Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to come to you with the brothers, but he was not at all willing to come now. However, he will come when he has an opportunity.





### **3. We Labor in Maturity**

**13 Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. 14 Do everything in love.**



# **What does Christian Maturity look like?**

**a. Dependency**  
Be alert...

**b. Devotion**  
Stand firm in the faith...



## **c. Delight**

**Do everything in love.**

**What does love look like in  
the local church?**



### **a. Service**

15 Brothers and sisters, you know the household of Stephanas: They are the firstfruits of Achaia and have **devoted themselves to serving the saints.**

### **b. Submission**

**I urge you 16 also to submit to such people,** and to everyone who works and labors with them.



## c. Strengthen

17 I am delighted to have Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus present, because these men have made up for your absence. 18 **For they have refreshed my spirit and yours.**



**d. Support**

Therefore **recognize such people...**

**e. Sentiment**

20 All the brothers and sisters send you greetings. **Greet one another with a holy kiss...**



## **Driving Question:**

**What do our labors in the Lord look like?**

## **Answer:**

**Our Labors look like mercifully sacrificing for the sake of Christ's mission and the maturity of God's people in dependency, devotion, and delight in the unity of the Holy Spirit we all share.**