

# ST. SIMEON ANGLICAN CHURCH, OFF FUTA ROAD, AKURE

## BIBLE STUDY, 20/05/2009

### STUDY 8

## THE WORK OF THE LORD

I Corinthians 15:58

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord"* (I Corinthians 15:58). An analysis of this verse shows that it consists of two things: an exhortation and motives to enforce the same. The exhortation includes a threefold task: to be "*steadfast*" in the faith, in our convictions of the truth; to be "*unmovable*" in our affections, in our expectations of the things promised; to be "*always abounding in the work of the Lord*" in doing His will, in performing those good works which He has foreordained we should walk in. The "*work of the Lord*" may be regarded first as a general expression, comprehending all that He requires from us in the way of duty: in the exercise of every grace and the practice of every virtue. "*Always abounding in the work of the Lord*" signifies ever engaged in obeying His Word, seeking His glory, aiming at the advance of His kingdom. More specifically, it imports that lifelong task which He has set before us, and which may be summed up in two words—mortification and sanctification: the denying of self and putting to death of our lusts; the developing of our graces and bringing forth the fruits of holiness.

### Questions for discussion

1. Does not Scripture itself speak of the saints, or at least ministers of the gospel, being "*co-workers with God*"? I Corinthians 3:9; II Corinthians 6:1; Job 22:263
2. What is meant by "*the work of the Lord*" in I Corinthians 15:58?
3. What is the all-inclusive work which God has assigned us? Genesis 18:19
4. Explain steadfastness, immovability and "*always abounding*" in the work of the Lord into some details—Ephesians 4:14; Titus 1:9; Hebrews 3:6; I Corinthians 10:31; II Peter 1:5611; Galatians 6:9.
5. What is connection of I Corinthians 15:58 with I Corinthians 15:56657?
6. What does the clause "*forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord*" mean? I Corinthians 15:14, 17; Philippians 2:16

### Conclusion

Every sincere effort of gratitude however faulty its execution, is valued by God and shall be recompensed. "*God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love which ye have showed toward His name*" (Hebrews 6:10). The Christian should be fully assured that a genuine endeavour to do God's will and promote His glory will receive His smile, produce peace of conscience and joy of heart here, and His "well done" hereafter. The more confident our hope of

reward, the more determined will be our efforts to mortify sin and practice holinessô the *only* "labour" God has assured us "is *not* in vain"