

A Sermon  
from 1 Corinthians  
XV, 58.

Therefore, my beloved brethren,  
be ye steadfast, unmovable, always  
abounding in the work of the Lord,  
inasmuch as ye know that your  
labor is not in vain, in the Lord.

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The greater & more our hope is, the  
brighter our prospects appear, the  
more we ought to be in earnest to live  
up & adhere to our Christian calling.  
We are not expected or required of  
God to strive and labor, to submit  
to trials & sufferings, to sacrifices and  
self-denials, without some motives  
to stimulate us, without some promise  
to cheer us. It is said of those who have  
& renounced much of this world's attractions  
and pleasure, ~~and~~ passed through  
many a great conflict, and have to over-  
come no common difficulties & opposition  
that he had respect to the recompense  
of the reward. Though he was not permitted



to enter the earthly Canaan, the hope of  
a better country the heavenly Canaan of promise  
was set before him.

In a similar manner Paul renounced  
all his former prospects, all that  
~~once~~ at one time animated his zeal &  
would conduce to his renown in this  
world for the glorious hope of the Gospel.  
He considered things but loss for the  
excellency of the knowledge of Christ and  
the prize set before him. It was above  
all the hope of a glorious resurrection  
that animated his soul and caused  
him to labor so zealously & perseveringly  
in the cause of his Divine Master.

It is so much better to die, this the hope  
set before us, it is the hope of eternal  
life & a glorious immortality that alone  
can & does suffice to cheer & strengthen  
God's servants amidst all afflictions  
and obstructions, temptations and con-  
flicts. In proportion as we maintain  
this hope shall we be enabled both  
to suffer & to labor for Christ.

Hence St Paul in the words of our  
text makes so strong an argument



an appeal, to his Christian readers,  
for he had pointed out to them the  
most comforting assurances and the  
most ~~the~~ animating prospects. Our  
text may be said to be the practical  
application of the great truths of the  
Gospel, of the everlasting doctrines  
of the Christian's faith & hope.

Let us refer then direct our attention

I, to the leading facts & prominent truths  
of the Christian's faith as shown through-  
out the chapter of which our text  
forms the concluding part.

II, In the next place let us notice the  
exhortation to steadfastness and <sup>abandonment</sup>  
~~continuance~~ in all good works.

III, Lastly we shall notice the pro-  
mise and encouragement annexed  
to it.

And let our earnest prayer be  
that God's gracious aid and the  
H. Spirit's guidance may accompany  
our present meditation.

I shall but briefly refer to the general  
contents of the chapter of which our  
text forms the concluding part. For  
as it was the second lesson of this  
evening's service I may hope



it for granted that you can easily  
call to mind what you have just  
heard, and I trust, I can take it  
likewise for granted, that you  
have been impressed, at least in  
some measure, with its beauty & exalting  
and that the great & glorious hope so  
emphatically announced and so  
conclusively and lucidly reasoned  
upon by the Apostle has attracted  
your attention <sup>now</sup> ~~and~~ I would finally  
~~reassure~~ ~~renew~~ & animated your  
hope. I have often occasion, my brethren  
to recall a part of this chapter on the  
solemn & mournful occasions when we  
pay the last respect to those who have  
departed from us & accompany them  
to the grave. And I confess I never  
can read this grand & vivid description  
of the Christian's hope without admiration  
or as I trust without being inspired  
and cheered by its exalted. No often  
strikes me that no man could have  
announced such sublime truths &  
maintained such steadfast em-  
phatic sentiment, as Paul ~~man~~  
~~states~~ asserts & demonstrates in  
this chapter without being inspired.



It was the Holy Spirit alone that could  
then enlighten his soul & animate  
his heart and quicken his pen.

Notwithstanding the Spectle's arguments,  
rest on facts, on facts recorded being  
clearly proved & testified by those  
who have been eye witnesses of Christ's  
resurrection. Indeed the first part  
of the chapter forms a narrative  
~~effect~~<sup>the</sup> glowing account of the resur-  
rection of Christ, and of the various  
witnesses that had seen the risen Saviour.

Now from this from Christ's resurrection;  
St Paul proves the resurrection of the  
body in general, or rather, the resur-  
rection of them who by faith are in Christ.  
It was Christ's, manhood, or human  
nature that was raised from the tomb;  
and this insures the believer's resurrection;  
because of the intimate ~~union~~ <sup>union</sup> or  
vital union existing between Christ  
the Head & them who are members of  
his mystical body. Christ was  
the firstborn from the grave and all  
of Adam's race, who have become  
partakers of his redemption, shall  
be made alive in Christ.

He will not permit me to enter into  
the various particulars of the Spectle's



reasonings since statements concerning  
the hope of resurrection, nor need I remind  
you further of what you have heard  
this evening. But a beautiful passage  
like this: It is sown in corruption, it is  
raised in incorruption, it is sown in  
dishonour, it is raised in glory, it is sown  
in weakness, it is raised in power,  
it is sown a natural body, it is raised  
a spiritual body, deserves especially to be  
repeated to <sup>excite</sup> ~~attract~~ our attention &  
<sup>animate</sup> to ~~raise~~ our hope.

No less striking & emphatic is the Apostle's  
bold challenge to death: O death  
where is thy sting, O grave where is thy  
victory. And if we have that lively faith  
as St Paul we cannot fail to join  
his veneration & praise. But Mark  
be unto God who giveth us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ. in  
the verse preceding our text.

The term therefore with which our text  
commences, necessarily connects it with the  
whole chapter and with all the living  
hopes held forth.

Therefore, since such a hope is set  
before you a hope resting on such  
a strong foundation, such sure ground,



it becomes to be shewn fast, an impossibility. Let us  
 Those who are so easily swayed to & fro embrace  
 by doubts, by every wind of doctrine their hope  
 from whatever quarters men's doubts, the riding  
 and errors may arise, men may have of head a  
 rightly examined the doctrines of mind,  
 the Gospel, or weighed seriously with  
 and concerning the concerns and force  
 truths by which the Christian faith arises  
 was published. Then are sceptics, a  
 unbelievers and doubters who often  
 would have to confess that the Law  
 reveal but little of the Law  
 much less read them with candour  
 of inquiry or the love of truth.  
 But the most



rule to do the will of God, in order  
to know the truth of his doctrine.

The exhortation of the text be it un-  
faint & unmovable is specially reason-  
able at the present time ~~when~~ for  
henceforth & speculative philo-  
sophy are too frequently at work to  
undermine the foundation of the Gospel  
& to rob the Christian of his hope.

Many things are asserted as truths  
& facts which ~~have no real~~ rest upon  
no more conjecture than yet they are  
held forth in opposition to the Scriptures  
in opposition to the highest authority  
and confirmed by all manner  
of evidence & proofs. Both  
external & internal proofs abound.

Only read the history of the Gospel  
since the writings of Mark have been  
with candor & a certain candor  
you will be convinced of the truth.  
Study the life & sayings of Christ  
since you will require no other  
evidence to establish your  
faith.



Be ye therefore steadfast & immovable  
especially holding fast the hope of  
glorification.

But in the next place it  
beams us to advance always in  
the work of the Lover.

Faith is <sup>the kind of faith</sup> not a lifeless thing, as  
men barren ice, but full of life  
and activity. ~~The~~ genuine faith  
has something inspiring & animating

The men are acceptable to him in  
Christ because through him have  
attained we can hope the men  
recently we are to be engaged in  
some way or other in the work  
of the Lover. In the first place  
we should make every effort to  
advance every man in all that  
concerns our spiritual state, our  
preparations for heaven, in  
actions of living our heavenly  
spenceless, otherwise our hope  
will be obscured. To grow in grace  
and in the knowledge of our Lord



since Jesus Christ is best & safe  
ground again falling into error &  
sin or being associated with worldly  
& fears.

Next it becomes us to abound in  
the work of the Lord, by labors of

love, by ~~encouraging~~ encouraging

to serve & benefit our fellowmen  
by employing our various gifts &  
talents for the glory of the Church  
for the increase of pure religion,  
for the dissemination of the truth  
among the ignorant or the young  
by acts of charity &c. We must  
be willing to make sacrifices for  
the sake of Christ & his cause,  
if thereby we can do good to others  
or promote their Christian welfare.  
We are to be zealous in good  
works, to let our light shine  
through them that we may bring  
out of darkness & heathen into the kingdom of  
Christ & demonstrate the power  
of God & true religion. In doing  
this, we are to be called upon.

If we are  
rightly in-  
vested  
in any work  
as any worker  
doing we  
shall  
engage  
in it, the  
worker  
no longer  
a tool  
but an  
agent  
employ  
ment.



For ye know that your labors are  
not in vain in the Lord.



Males

Candidates for Confirmation

William King

Richard Henry Miller

Females

Jessie Jones

Jane Chappell

Jane Frost

Mary Ann ~~Crossing~~ Frost

Mary Jane ~~Crossing~~