

Therefore, Why?

1 Corinthians 15:58

Introduction:

1. Words mean something, even small ones. The word “therefore” appears over 3700 times in the Bible. This is an important word.
2. Therefore is an adverb that gives the reader the application of what was previously said. (consequently, on the grounds of, because of...)
3. Examples:
 - a. 1 Cor. 6:20 - For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (Since we are now personal property of God, we need to glorify God in our physical members.)
 - b. 1 Thess. 5:6 - so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. (Because Christians belong to the light, we should not be asleep or distracted.)
4. Our theme for this year is “Living in a broken world,” and boy was it ever prophetic. As part of our theme we have been studying the letter of James and emphasized James 1:22; “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”
5. Let us consider the “therefore” in 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - I. Therefore, be steadfast (firm, unwavering, plant you feet)
 - A. 1 Cor. 15 excellent essay/argument about the certainty of the Lord’s resurrection as well as ours.
 - B. Paul encourages us not give up, or our Christianity will be in vain. (1Cor. 15:1-2)
 - C. The instruction is that we do not waver in our belief and mission.
 - II. Therefore, be immovable
 - A. We all know of Christians who began their journey with the Lord very enthusiastically, but have stopped. They have given up.
 - B. There are many reasons why people give up (tragedies -Job 2:9, worldliness -Demas 2 Tim. 4:10)
 - C. The reason we should be immovable is that there is a danger of drifting away (Hebrews 2:1), go so far away that there no longer remains a sacrifice (Heb.

10:26), there is a danger of turning our backs on God completely, reject the Holy Spirit and be lost forever (Heb. 6:4-6)

III. Therefore, always be in the work of the Lord

- A. Being a hot, then cold Christian does not help the Kingdom and it does not help us as individuals.
- B. The admonishment is that we are always busy in the work of the Lord (evangelism, teaching, benevolence).
- C. Examples from James (pure and undefiled religion...poor person and you don't help...be doers of the Word).

IV. Therefore, always abounding (excelling) in the work of the Lord

- A. It is important to be steadfast, immovable and busy, but Paul calls us to EXCELL, ABOUND
- B. Do you dabble in the work of the Lord, or are you fully immersed? Usually there are a handful in the church who are immersed, while others dabble. Understand that this is dangerous.
- C. James teaches us that it is not necessary to announce our Christianity, but to show it by our works (James 2:17)
- D. "...knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord."

Conclusion:

1. Are you steadfast, immovable and fully immersed in the work of the Lord? We are to do this for several reasons, including that promise of the resurrection and eternal life in heaven.
2. CALL