

Having a Vision for the Future **1 Corinthians 15:58**

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1. 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”
 - I. Paul Had His Vision For the Church.
 - A. Paul knew where he was headed. He knew what it was he wanted to accomplish.
 1. In 1 Corinthians 16:5 Paul writes, “After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you - for I will be going through Macedonia.”
 - B. If you don’t have a vision of where you want to go, then it really doesn’t matter which direction you go.
 - C. What are your plans for doing the Lord’s work?
 - II. Paul Was Flexible in the Way He Served the Lord.
 - A. Paul was able to adapt to new plans and new circumstances.
 1. “Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go.” 1 Corinthians 16:6
 2. “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9
 - B. We have to be willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish the most for the Lord.
 - III. React in a Positive Way to Challenges.
 - A. A third principle for accomplishing the Lord’s work is accepting opposition as a challenge rather than a hindrance.
 1. 1 Corinthians 16:9, “because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.”
 2. 2 Corinthians 1:8-10
 3. “Things got tough on us while we were at Ephesus, but that just made us depend more and more on the Lord.” “the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.” (Acts 19:20).
 - IV. Paul Encouraged a Sense of Unity.
 - A. The responsibility of leadership is to build team work.
 1. 1 Corinthians 6:10, “If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am.”
 - B. The church is about people serving together for the cause of Christ.
 1. “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13