Stand Firm - Do Not Lose Heart

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst
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Scripture: 1st Corinthians 15:1-4, 54-58

CONTEXT: 1st Corinthains 15:1-2 – *"(1) Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. (2) By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain."*

Paul reminds them how...

- The Corinthians heard & received the Gospel of Jesus (Vs. 1)
- Jesus brought certainty to their lives – *"(1) ...which you have taken your **stand.**"*
- Jesus saved them and their "call" is to hold onto the Word (Vv. 1-2)

The Gospel Summary: (Vv. 3-4) – *"(3) For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to..."*

The end of this resurrection chapter...
1st Corinthians 15:51-54 – *"(54) ...then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' (55) Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*

- The spiritual victory is *in* Jesus.

***Hosea 13:14** – *"(14) I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?"*

Key verse: *"(58) Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, 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."*

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1) CALL: *"(58) Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm**."*
FIRM: (Gk*: hedraios):* ***"steadfast, firm, immovable."***

- ***Sit*** (solidly); ***Steadfast*** (firm), = *morally fixed*; *firm in purpose* (mind).
- **POINT: *Remain Fixed in Jesus.***

2) COMMAND: *"(58) Let nothing move you."*
Nothing Move You: (Gk: *ametakinétos):* ***"Immovable, unshakable."***

- without movement or change of status.
- **POINT: *Let nothing change your Christian commitment.***

3) COMMISSION: *"(58) Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord"*
Give Yourselves fully: (Gk: *perisseuó):* ***"To abound, to be in abundance, to overflow, to excel."***

- **POINT: *Excel in effort towards God's Work.***

4) COMPLETION: *"(58) because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*
Labor: (Gk: *kopos):* ***"Labor, toil, trouble, weariness."***

- **Idea of: a cut** (battle scars, wounds); **toil** *(reducing the strength); **pains** (a result of faith)

Vain: (Gk: kenos): ***"Empty, vain, devoid of truth or effect."***

- ***Worthless*; *amounting to zero*** (of no value, profit).
- **POINT: *Do Not Lose Heart.***

It is easy to get down about serving the Lord...

- Don't be discouraged!
- Don't get focused on the earthly cost.
- Stay fixed on what is gained in eternity.

Stand Firm – CHURCH - Do Not Lose Heart!

1st Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race only one gets the Prize?