

Pastor Ron Case
3/19/23

“At First Glance...” (4)

“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.” (Galatians 6:9 NASB)

...My Labor is in Vain

Isaiah 49:1-4 – (1) “Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. (2) He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. (3) And he said to me, ‘You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’ (4) But I said, ‘I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.’”

The Complaint of the Righteous

1 Samuel 25:21-22 – (21) “Now David had said, ‘Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. (22) God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him.’”

Psalms 73:13-14 – (13) “Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? (14) I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain.” (NLT)

Malachi 3:14 – “You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’”

Compensation Motivation

Hebrews 12:2 – “...Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

1 Thessalonians 3:5, 2:19-20 – (5) “For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. (19) For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? (20) For you are our glory and joy.”

1 Corinthians 9:10 – “Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.”

Serving with Hope

James 5:7-8 – (7) “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. (8) You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

Hebrews 6:10 – “For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.” (NLT)

Diligence Directive

1 Corinthians 15:58 – “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

Whistle while You Work

Colossians 3:23-24 – (23) “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. **You are serving the Lord Christ.**”

Isaiah 40:10 – “Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”

Isaiah 62:11 – “Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.’”

Psalms 100:2 – “Serve the LORD with gladness!...”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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