

Dedication - 1 Corinthians 15:58

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I. Introduction.

- A. The speaker chose this as a life verse when he was younger.
- B. Being reminded of this later in life, he rededicated his life to the Lord.
- C. We all need to rededicate our lives to the Lord periodically.

II. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

A. What is the work of the Lord?

- 1. There are many things Christians do, but they may not be the central work of the Lord.
- 2. The ministry of reconciliation is the work of the Lord. This means to bring into harmony - it is an up to date and needed concept. (2 Corinthians 5:19)
- 3. There is division between races, nations, family members and individuals.

B. The cause of our need is sin - we need harmony with the Lord, others, and inside ourselves.

C. The nature of reconciliation.

- 1. Reconciliation is not merely patching things up - it is a radical inner change.
- 2. The radical change requires a change of mind - repentance. This is admitting wrong done.
- 3. Reconciliation puts the obligation on us to make peace with others. (Matthew 5)
- 4. Reconciliation is found in the one who came to make peace - Jesus.

D. Our ministry and where we belong is in the hard places - where there is division.

E. The fine print of the contract: be steadfast and unmovable.

- 1. People do not receive this with their eyes wide open.
- 2. We are to weigh the costs of surrender to him before we yield anew to him.
- 3. We are to abound in the work of the Lord because most people are not doing enough.

F. Our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Application questions

1. Why is reconciliation an “up to date” concept?

2. Explain what the speaker means by a radical inner change that is required for reconciliation. Why is this so?

3. What costs do you need to weight anew as you consider rededicating your life to Christ? List several and spend some time in reflection about what you might need to surrender to God to actively please Him in the work of the ministry.
