

**I. Christians Are to Work with Patience (vv 1-2)****A.** In your labours, patiently wait for the Lord to bring the fruit (v 1)

- 1) Exposition
- 2) Applications
  - a) Do not be looking for quick fixes
  - b) Do not be frantic, constantly moving from one thing to the next if you do not see fruit immediately.
    - i. Three important qualifications:
      - You should change immediately if you are sinning, as there is no benefit ever to be gained from sin.
      - By all means, change if there is a lack of wisdom
      - We must also recognize that we are constantly changing
    - ii. In your faith, do not be frantic in distress or despair:
    - iii. In your vocation.
    - iv. In your habits/disciplines.
    - v. In your Church.
  - c) Questions for examination when changing something:
  - d) An application for those who are younger: Get perspective from those who are older.

**B.** In your labors, work patiently with many diverse approaches (v 2)

- 1) Exposition
- 2) Application — Have variety in your labours if at all possible.
  - a) In your faith
  - b) Regarding life and godliness
  - c) Plan ahead, which is a part of assuming responsibility
  - d) Budget for the inevitable unknown, which will occur.

**II. Christians Are to Labour without Fear (vv 3-4)****A.** Exposition of the Text

- 1) Structure
- 2) General sense — The one who is consumed by what could and what will go wrong will, the one paralyzed from dwelling upon his own fears, will neither reap nor sow anything let alone anything of profit.
- 3) Specific understanding

**B.** Reasons, or Motivations, not to fear

- 1) God is sovereign (Psa 135:5-6)
- 2) God is good (Psa 119:68)
- 3) Love casts out fear (1 Jn 4:18)
- 4) Things will go as unplanned.
- 5) Failure will come.
- 6) Failure often brings experience.
- 7) Giving way to fear is counterproductive and harmful.

**C.** What should we do in the face of fear?

- 1) Bring these things to mind
- 2) Pray to the Lord (Psa 77:2-3)
- 3) Work diligently by faith

**III. Christians Are to Work Diligently (vv 5-6)****A.** You do not know what God will do (v 5)

- 1) There are things looking around in this world nobody understands
  - a) The wind
  - b) Babies growing in womb
- 2) It is reasonable that, since there are things we can see and empirically sense under the sun but still not understand, then we will certainly not understand the works of God who is infinite, eternal, and in the heavens
- 3) The disposition and expectation is optimistic not pessimistic

**B.** Work diligently (v 6a)

- 1) Do the work
- 2) With Constancy
- 3) With Consistency

**C.** Work with thoughtful faith, looking always to the promises of God (v 6b)

- 1) Why meditate on the Word and promises of God? Because the Word of God does not return void (Isa 55:10-11)
- 2) Why work diligently rather than being lazy? Because He has set His Creation in order (Gal 6:7-9)
- 3) Pursue, in and above all things, righteousness (Hosea 10:12-13)
- 4) Be content to labour in sorrow and uncertainty (Psa 126:5-6)
- 5) Be content to never see the fruits of your labour (Jn 12:24-26)