

## SEPTEMBER 2018 PRAYER FOCUS: SERVING THE LORD

Our Labour in Serving the Lord is Not In Vain!

1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding - excelling in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour (pain - suffering, as with one giving birth) is not in vain (unrewarding) in the Lord.

Today and throughout history there are many examples of men and women who have and are presently living their lives in sacrificial service to God.

However, the manner in which Jesus Christ served God was far greater than them all. Jesus had faith in the Father! He knew that His Labour (the pains: trouble and weariness) that He suffered from serving the Father was not going to be in vain (unrewarded).

Jesus' Sacrificial Service, Suffering and Reward

(Read the entire Chapter of Isaiah 53 to capture the fullness of Jesus' sacrifice and suffering)

Isaiah 53:2-4, 10, CEVUK

2 ... the servant (Jesus Christ) grew up obeying the LORD. 3 He was hated and rejected; his life was filled with sorrow and terrible suffering. 4... He suffered and endured great pain... (Although, He did nothing wrong.) 10 Yet the Lord was willing to crush Him, causing Him to suffer...

As a result of Jesus' commitment to serve the Father, despite the suffering he endured, Jesus did everything God had planned for Him to do and God blessed Jesus Christ with honor and power. Isaiah 53:10-11 CEVDC & CEVUK.

In Malachi 3, Judah's (God's people) faith in God weakened because of the difficult times they faced. They began to lose hope of the future God promised them for their faithful service to Him. Many of them forsook God.

They began to say, 'It's useless to serve God. What's the use of doing what he says...' Malachi 3:14 GNTD

For those who repented and remained in the service to God, He showed mercy and planned to reward them greatly. But, for those who decided to quit, God planned to punish them. Malachi (3:16-18).

Likewise today, from the highest rank of Christian leadership to the lowest rank of those in service to the Lord; many are teetering at the precipice (cliff); swaying back and forth in their faith; wondering if they should quit serving in the work of ministry, or worst, giving up their faith in God entirely. Saying to themselves, as with Judah, (God's people) "what is the use, it is vain

to serve God”.

**DON'T QUIT!**

Decide today....that you are not going to quit on the call of God on your life! In other words, decide in your heart and mind right now, at this very moment that quitting in the service of the Lord is not an option for me! We have to be intentional about enduring until the end of what we are called of God to do, even if it's for a lifetime. Refuse to quit in the service of the Lord!

Be unyielding to Satan's temptation to drawback! God takes no pleasure in us if we step away from our post in His Kingdom. (Hebrews 10:38, BSB) But My righteous one will live by faith; and if he (or she) shrinks back, I will take no pleasure in him.” God does not tempt us with giving up on him, the devil does! (James 1:13).

Our labour - the pain we suffer for faithfully serving in the kingdom of God will not go unrewarded! Amen