

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - 1. Jesus' Arrest & Trials (18:1-19:16a)
 - 2. Jesus' Crucifixion & Burial (19:16b-42)
 - 3. Jesus' Resurrection & Appearances (20:1-29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

The Resurrection and our Labor

Gospel of John, Part LXXIII

John 21:1-14

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Your Labor is not in Vain

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor 15:58).

II. Jesus' Resurrection and Ours

A. Introduction (1)

B. A Disappointing Night (2-5)

C. A Fruitful Morning (6-13)

"There is no lofty mystery in the number of the fishes... if anyone examines it more closely, he will find [such interpretations] childish trifling" (Calvin, 217).

D. Conclusion (14)

III. How the Resurrection Reshapes our Labor (1 Cor 15:58)

A. Labor, in itself, is Good (Gen 1:28; Ex 20:8-11; Pr 14:23)

Labor, in itself, is _____. When God created mankind in the garden, He gave us work to do. We were to rule over and tend the creation to the glory of His Name. While the toil and failure that often accompany our work are a result of the fall, the work itself is a gift from God. *"All hard work brings a profit but mere talk leads only to poverty"* (Pr 14:23). Assuming that *our labor is _____ and that we are laboring _____* then that labor is a gift from God to be done to the glory of His Name.

- Work diligently: *"He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame"* (Pr 10:4-5).
- Work honestly: *"Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase"* (Pr 13:11).
- Work contentedly: *"Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven"* (Pr 23:4-5).

B. Apart from God's Blessing, our Labor is Vain (Eccl 1:2-3)

1. *Apart from God's Blessing, our labor will produce nothing in this life*

Solomon reminds us, "*The blessing of the Lord makes one rich...*" (Pr 10:22a). As Moses had charged Israel, "*And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...*" (Dt 8:18).

2. *Apart from God's Blessing, the fruit our labor will be given to others*

Ecclesiastes repeatedly reminds us that apart from God's blessing, apart from the hope of the resurrection and the reward that God will bestow on all those who labor to His glory, the fruit of our labor in this life will be given to others.

18 Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity. (Eccl 2:18-19)

3. *Apart from God's Blessing, our labor will result in condemnation*

Apart from God's Blessing of salvation, our labor will result in condemnation after death. Remember the words of Christ:

...the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear [the Son of Man's] voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. (5:28-29)

C. In Christ, our Labor is not in Vain

1. Christ doesn't _____ your labor

2. Christ _____ your labor

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality." (Col 3:22-25)

3. Christ _____ your labor

Bondservants were to do their work "*heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ*" (3:24). We know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord because the Lord will reward us for our labors.

IV. Conclusion