

C&C: We Must Travail if we are to Prevail

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

2 Corinthians 11:22-33

22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

23 Are they ministers of Christ? **(I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.**

We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!! We must be in laboring for the kingdom of God. The work does not get accomplished by being idle. We were not called unto salvation to then sit around idle all the day long!! In labours more abundant!! Working for the kingdom of God is our reasonable and expected service!! **“But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”** (Lk 17:7-10)

24 Of the Jews **five times received I forty stripes save one.**

25 **Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;**

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

Doing the work of God will take commitment, sacrifice out of a good and pure heart, by the Holy Ghost and by love unfeigned. It's going to take some dedication and fortification on your part. We were not called into the kingdom of God to be idle, stagnant, and without growth! But to produce fruit in laboring. If you do not produce fruit you will be as the branch that has withered whose end is for the fire to be burned! However, if you are truly abiding in Christ the vine, you can not help but to produce fruit because you are abiding in him!! **“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”** (Jn 15:4-6)

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!! It is going to cost you a price. The price? Keeping your body, soul, and spirit under subjection to Jesus Christ. Putting the deeds of your members of your body unto death as our lives are hid in Christ and we are alive unto him. Sin is not to have dominion over you!!

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

For a Church to be on fire and to succeed in producing growth that Church must be in laboring often for the souls of men!! Kingdom minded!! Working diligently not only in prayers, and fastings, but also in unity of the faith, in the Spirit, and the bonds of perfectness which is love!! Otherwise your Church will not grow and produce fruit!! **“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”** (Psa 133:1-3)

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

Romans 8:32-37

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Salvation and redemption came with a cost. There was a price paid in blood!!

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!! “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” (1 Jn 3:16-17) “Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.” (Pro 17:5)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Labor of love! Labor of consistency! For there is a work to be worked! The work of God for the glory of God for the souls of men!! We are more than conquerors through him that loved us. It's time to travail so that both you and others will prevail!!

Luke 14:26-35

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, **he cannot be my disciple.**

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple.**

Jesus Christ must be first in your life!! Above all things!! Your family can not be more important to you than Jesus Christ, nor your own self!!

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, **sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?**

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!! We are given example after example of laboring for the kingdom of God. It is going to take work on your part to win souls for the Lord!! Have you counted the cost?

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

If you forsake all and do not labor for the kingdom of God then what are you doing with your time? Seeing you have forsook all for Christ and the kingdom of his dear Son? Was Jesus idle? Was his disciples idle? Then why are you??

34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, **wherewith shall it be seasoned?**

35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; **but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

1 Thesalonians 4:1-2

1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.**

That means We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!! That means we must grow and produce fruit for the kingdom of God!! For if a tree continues not to produce fruit it will be cut down and removed!! “And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” (Mt 3:10)

2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

Philippians 2:1-11

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

We are to be of the same mind as Jesus Christ!! We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!! What mind that was in Christ...

6 Who, being in the form of God, **thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The mind set of a servant!! Humbling yourself!! And being obedient even unto death is the mind set. This serving was to save mankind from their sinful state and you as a true follower of Jesus Christ will have this mind set in you and you will be busy about the master's business for the laborers are few!!

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 6:26-29

26 Jesus answered them and said, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.**

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28 Then said they unto him, **What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?**

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**

Does this make void all the other things Jesus and his Apostles have spoken of concerning laboring for the kingdom of God? If you believe on him that God has sent then you will be busy preparing the way for others to have this same experience for this is whereunto you were called!! "And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.**" (Lk 24:46-48)

Hebrews 4:1-13

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: **but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**

The gospel message was preached to Israel in the Old Testament, but did not profit them, “**not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**”

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!! There remains a rest to the people of God that we are to be laboring to enter into!! “**Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.**” (Lk 13:24)

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

We are to labour to enter that rest of the Lord which is the rest that is found in the receiving and renewing of the Holy Ghost evidenced by the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance!! The children of Israel failed to enter this rest but we under the New Testament are told, “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.” “Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” “**The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.**” (Lk 16:16)

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: **but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**

Colossians 1:27-29

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Pray that God would use you to labor in his harvest!! We are to be zealous of good works!! To have good works requires laboring for the kingdom of God!! “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**” (Eph 2:10)

Jude 1:20-25

20 But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,**

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Keeping yourselves in the love of God requires obedience to the faith that was delivered to us. Which means, We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!!

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

It's going to take laboring for the kingdom of God in the Word of God to be able to show forth “compassion, making a difference” as well as with “others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.” “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.” (2 Cor 1:3-5) “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” (1 Peter 3:15)

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Matthew 9:35-38

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, **he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.**

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;**

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

The kingdom of God needs workers! Being called out of darkness into his marvellous light should place a zeal within you for God and that of lost souls in need of salvation!!

Luke 10:1-12

1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

2 Therefore said he unto them, **The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.**

3 **Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.**

We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!! “For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Rm 8:36-37)

4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house.

6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: **for the labourer is worthy of his hire.** Go not from house to house.

8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, **The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.**

10 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

11 **Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.**

12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

Matthew 25:14-30

14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, **who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.**

In other words you are to be laboring for the kingdom of God!!

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; **to every man according to his several ability;** and straightway took his journey.

Notice it was according to your ability, but no one was to sit around idle. A servant is to serve!!

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, **and made them other five talents.**

17 And likewise he that had received two, **he also gained other two.**

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, **and hid his lord's money.**

Laziness and slothfulness will kill you!! Let my soul take ease!! “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in

the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.” (Pro 6:6-11)

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

These servants worked for their lord and brought forth increase!! We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!!

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

This other servant was wicked and slothful. Even testifying of what he knew of his lord yet didn't even take the talent of money to the exchangers to get usury on it!! We are to labor for the kingdom of God and not to sit around idle. “The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.” (Pro 21:25)

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 19:11-27

11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

We are commanded to occupy until the Lord Jesus Christ comes!! We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!!

14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

Jesus was not of the Marxist ideology as many false teachers claim. Rather the Lord will take away that which you had and give it to another who is laboring, working, and producing fruit for the kingdom of God!!

25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

We Must Travail if we are to Prevail!!

Matthew 20:1-16

1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, **Call the labourers, and give them their hire,** beginning from the last unto the first.

9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, **they received every man a penny.**

10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

11 And when they had received it, **they murmured against the goodman of the house,**

12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: **didst not thou agree with me for a penny?**

14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

We as the children of God are not to be idle concerning the Master's business!! We are to occupy until he comes laboring in the harvest as well as his vineyard for the souls of men as well as performing good works while we await his coming!!

Matthew 24:43-51

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, **he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.**

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

James 1:22-25

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving your own selves.**

23 **For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:**

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 **But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**