

Work of Faith, Labor of Love, Patience of Hope

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of God and our Father; –I Thessalonians 1:3

In Thessalonians, Paul mentions work, labor, and patience. In Revelation 2:2, Jesus addresses the church of Ephesus with the same three words, *“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear evil;”*

Our work for the Lord is important. It is to be driven by faith. This implies that the things we strive to do are not those things that we desire, but those things that God desires. Work is difficult and it can be discouraging but if it is a work of faith we will trust the Lord for the strength, for the guidance, and for the result.

Labor for the Lord implies that we are working very hard. Labor requires great effort and pain. The one laboring pays a price and that is why our labor must be motivated by love. Without love we will weary of the toil.

According to Webster’s Dictionary, patience is the quality of bearing or enduring pain or trials without complaint. The way the Christian can endure the pain and trials of this life is because of the hope he has in Christ.

God chose to commend the Church in Ephesus for their work of faith, labor of love and patience of hope. This Labor Day let us keep our eyes on the One we labor for and remember that we are able to be good laborers because of faith and love and hope.