



water from rock

The Lord Be With You.

May I talk with you for a few moments about your daily calendar, whether you keep your calendar on your phone, your computer, or your day time, or whether you keep your calendar in your head. I wonder how was your calendar looking? We live in busy times, don't we? Our calendars are showing it, and that's why I've come to really appreciate the words of Martin Luther who said, I have two days on my calendar: This day, and that day. This day of course, meaning today, and that day meaning that great and final day, when we stand before the Lord Jesus Christ. So to have two days on our calendar, this day and that day, means that we will need to live today in the here and now, in the light of the big day, that we need to make choices for today in light of that day, that is to come, that will be forever.

Now, I know that this is very countercultural, it's very different than the way Popular Music, Television, Hollywood and the media are telling us to look at life. YOLO they say. "YOLO: You only live once" is what they're telling us. So that is how we are often tempted to make our choices. We make our choices by, well, by how we think friends and family will see us. We make choices based on, well, how much money we think we're going to make or based upon what we think will make life easier, more comfortable, and yet the Bible tells us that we need to be focused on, we need to make decisions based on these two day- this day, and that day.

There is a scripture that is helping me, and I pray, I hope that it will help you too. That we might have these two big days on our calendar, This day and that day... And I'm looking at the New Testament, book of 1 Corinthians Chapter 15:58, where the apostle Paul writes, Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain. Notice that the Apostle Paul begins this verse with the word therefore. Well there's an old saying that when you see the word therefore in Scripture that you need to stop and say, what it's there for and the word therefore, well, it's pointing us back to what the Apostle Paul has had to say all the way through 1 Corinthians chapter 15, which is that great chapter about the Resurrection. The Resurrection to everlasting life that day.

And Paul concludes this long discussion about God's promise of resurrection that day. He concludes the discussion of the Resurrection with an encouragement about how we live this day. Therefore, that is because of the resurrection, because of forever living with Jesus. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain.

Now, I wonder, do you ever think that what you're doing for the Lord, do you ever think that it might be in vain? I mean, you're working hard with a junior highers at your church, and it is hard work, and sometimes you might think that it is in vain. Or you're seeking to give more of your money, more of your time to God's kingdom work, and sometimes your tempted to think that it



water from rock

might be for nothing. I speak as a minister in this saying that most ministers that I know, they have some times when the going gets tough and they wonder if it's for nothing, if it is in vain. I like how the Message version of the Bible translates this verse, 1 Corinthians 15:58, as it says, With all this going for us, that is the resurrection, with all this going for us, my dear dear friends, stand your ground and don't hold back. Throw yourselves and to the work of the master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.

Nothing you do for Jesus is a waste of time, or effort. It will be rewarded. Your efforts and your struggles are not for nothing. They're not a waste of time, they're not thrown away. A faithful Christian life can be difficult, but it will be infinitely worth it. With all of the glory that you and I have to look forward to. So for this day, today, let's let our light shine for Jesus, let's throw ourselves into it, let's be stable, steadfast, looking forward to that wondrous moment when we stand before Jesus, because what you and I do this day for Jesus will last forever. And that we might hear the words of Jesus... Well done, good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a few things. I will put you in charge of many things, you enter into the joy of your Lord.

So in closing, let's you and me, let's keep an eye on our calendar however busily at might be. Let's mark this day and that day, the big day that is coming, because the Lord's promise to us that you're labor for him is not in vain.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler.

Thank you for listening. Until next time.