

*“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.” 1 Thessalonians 1:3no2 KJV*



Faith is God’s Word at work in your heart; conforming, transforming our thoughts and thereby our lives into His image. When, at last, our Lord appears, the only part of us still needing transformation, our body, will instantly be changed, *“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the Last Trump: for the Trumpet shall sound, and the dead (in Christ) shall be raised incorruptible, and we (believers) shall be changed. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* And this Work of Faith constrains us to our *“labour of love.”* Love is NOT a bowl of chocolate covered cherries! It requires purpose, diligence, and determination. My wife loves me, but in my condition, she must truly labor to care for my needs as I am invalid and bedridden, and, believe me, it requires purpose, diligence, and determination! Anyone, mother, father, brother, sister, son, or daughter, who loves another knows that love is labor. But this brings us to the Love Labor of God. *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Think of the effort and Power needed to keep these at bay from the millions of believers past, present, and future! Of the labor necessary to plan and create man in His own Image, and then to assume that flesh and die in agony on a cruel cross for that humanity! It is the ultimate Labor of Love! *“But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* For us!

Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan!  
Oh, the Grace that brought it down to man!  
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span; At Calvary!  
Mercy there was great, and Grace was free;  
Pardon there was multiplied to me;  
There my burdened soul found liberty;  
At Calvary. –William R. Newell, pub.1895

The Hope that trusts patiently waits in great anticipation of the fulfillment of that Hope. I truly believe that, like children waiting for Christmas morning, believers should be excitedly *“looking for that Blessed Hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”* I sadly believe that today’s Church has lost its excitement for the return of Christ! We are so encumbered with care; we trudge around staring at the ground instead of watching the sky! We’ve lost focus of our main purpose!

*“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His Grace in His Kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* Ephesians 2:6-10 KJV