

THREE ABIDING THINGS

1. Paul appears to place a premium on these three things.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 Charity never **faileth**: but whether there be prophecies, they shall **fail**; whether there be tongues, they shall **cease**; whether there be knowledge, it shall **vanish away**.⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be **done away**.....¹³ And now **abideth** faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Fail: *katargeō*. To render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative.

Cease: *pauō*. . To make to cease or desist

- Vanish away: *katargeō*. To render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative.
- Done away: *katargeō*. . To render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative.
- Abideth: *menō*. To continue to be, not to perish, to last, endure.

Colossians 1:4-5 Since we heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus, and of the **love** which ye have to all the saints, ⁵ For the **hope** which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of **faith** and **love**; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

2. Paul details the activity of the three remaining things.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. ² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

³ 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. FAITH WORKS. [Remembering without ceasing your **work of faith.**]

Romans 10:17 So then **faith** cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:1 Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

James 2:17 Even so **faith**, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.....**20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith** without works is dead?..... **26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith** without works is dead also.

Titus 1:16 They profess that they **know** God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

II. LOVE LABORS. [3 Remembering without ceasing your.... **labour of love.**]

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and **labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Labor: *kopos*. Intense labour united with trouble and toil.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

1. ⁴ Charity suffereth long,
2. and is kind;
3. charity envieth not;
4. charity vaunteth not itself,
5. is not puffed up,
6. ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly,
7. seeketh not her own,
8. is not easily provoked,
9. thinketh no evil;
10. ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity,
11. but rejoiceth in the truth;
12. ⁷ Beareth all things,
13. believeth all things,
14. hopeth all things,
15. endureth all things.

Love is very vulnerable!

Matthew 24:9-12 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰ And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹² **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

III. HOPE WAITS. [³ Remembering without ceasing your
.....**patience of hope.**]

Patience: *hypomonē*. A patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance

Romans 8:25 But if we **hope** for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

1 Corinthians 1:7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: