Your Toil Is Not In Vain

Intro:
- SR = 1 Cor. 15:58 toil (work) in the Lord is not in vain – why? - what’s in it for you?

Your work is not in vain because God is accomplishing His work through you!
- Phil. 2:12-13 God is at work in you, to will and to work for His good pleasure
- rf - 1 Th. 2:13 as we render obedience to God’s word, God works through us, according to the talents and abilities He has blessed us with
- rf - Rom. 8:28 working all things together for good, to those who love the Lord
- How important is your work in the Lord? – more important than being President of the USA, winning the Super Bowl, being the most famous actor or actress or musician, being the richest person in the world

Your work is not in vain because you personally benefit!
- 2 Th. 2:16-17 work not in vain – makes you stronger and more confident in your salvation
- rf. Acts 20:35 Jesus, it’s more blessed to give than receive – giver gets more than the receiver
- 1 Tim. 6:17-19 you are storing up treasure – toiling for the Lord = storing up treasure in heaven
- illus.: work for employer, have 401 K, you put % of salary and employer matches (free $), storing up treasure on earth - nothing wrong – toil in kingdom, storing up treasure in heaven, more valuable
- What’s your bank account in heaven have in it? – analogy, figurative speech

Your work is not in vain because you are helping our congregation to grow - helping each member!
- Eph. 4:12, 16 your “work of service” “causes the growth of the body, building up, in love
- every person, and every work done in the Lord, necessary for growth of the body in love
- each individual part is important, has work to do
- everything you do helps every person here (work in the Lord)
- illus.: song #620, “Room In The Kingdom” - there is work that we all can do
- What would it be like if you weren’t here – if no one was here? - no singing or LS or prayers, no encouragement, no worship

Your work is not in vain because God will not forget what you’ve done in His kingdom upon the earth!
- Heb. 6:10 God will not forget your work upon the earth, and love toward His name (respect for His authority) – love name - work
- shows God’s attitude toward the things we do – well pleasing
- illus.: God punished the Jews by bringing Babylon upon them, destroying them and taking them into Babylonian captivity, yet 100+ years before bring Babylon upon them He promised to never forget them
- Is. 49:15 “Can a woman forget her nursing child And have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you.”
- God never forgets His people - He’ll remember you and what you’ve done at judgment

Your work is not in vain because you’ll be glorified when Jesus returns!
- Rom. 8:18 future glory is to be revealed in you – when? - 1 Jn. 3:1-2
- 1 Jn. 3:1-2 when Jesus appears – you will be like Jesus when He appears
- Phil. 3:21 Jesus will transform you – spiritual body, eternal life
- 1 Th. 4:14-17 the coming of Jesus, be with him forever – transformed
Your work is not in vain because you’ll be rewarded at judgment to live in heaven for eternity!

- 1 Cor. 2:9 your reward will be grander than you can imagine
- Matt. 25:21 hear the Lord say, well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master
- 1 Cor. 6:2-3 you’ll judge the world and the angels, with all the saints — possibly as those who stand in agreement with Christ at judgment

- Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-4 imagine the day you’ll be welcomed into heaven, see the Lord and His throne, worship with the angels and all the saints

Summary / Inv.

- Your toil is not in vain:
  - God is accomplishing His work through you!
  - You personally benefit! – stronger, more confident in your salvation, storing up treasure in heaven
  - You are helping our congregation to grow - helping each member!
  - God will not forget what you’ve done in His kingdom upon the earth!
  - You’ll be glorified when Christ returns!
  - You’ll be rewarded at judgment to live in heaven for eternity!

- Inv.: if you are not a Christian, why don’t you become one, so your toil on earth is not in vain
  - hymn #508 “To The Work” toiling on, let us hope and trust, let us watch and pray, and labor till the Master comes