

A Better Way
A Better Ministry
Hebrews 6.1,9-17

Hebrews is the book of the **Better Way**, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**

- Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **Our Better Purgings** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **Our Better “So Great A Salvation”** (2.3)
- **Our Better Word From God** – This King James Bible
- **Our Better Prayer** - Standing in the presence of God.
- **A Better Spiritual Maturity**
- **A Better Eternal Security**

Today we discover that there is a **Better Ministry**

Read Text

In the Word of God, in Hebrews 6.1 we are told,

“ . . . Let Us Go On Unto Perfection . . . (vs 1)”

The Greek word translated **“Perfection”** here is the Greek word **“τελειότης”** Meaning full maturity. Therefore we are being encouraged to go on beyond the elementary things

of Salvation and redemption (vs 1-6) to the fulness of serving in ministry for our Lord (vs 7-20).

A Born-Again Christian demonstrates their spiritual maturity in their Christian Journey by their service in ministry to our Lord.

Notice of our Ministry in Christ, that our ministry is to be,

A. A Labor Of Insistence (vs 9-10) Labor of Love - *But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.*
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.*

Notice that there is our need for a great love for God. This great love for God is demonstrated in our lives by our ministry. It is referred to as a **“Labour of Love.”**

How people think they prove their Love for God,

Matt 22.37

- **Religion** - For many Christians they want to convince us that they love God by their religion. That is by the fact that they go to church, for many this would be occasionally. They think their love for God is revealed in their religious traditionalism.
- **Profession** – For other they believe that they prove they love God by their professions. They might say, “I believe in Jesus” as if that is all it takes to prove they love God.

Our text states that if we really love God, then our love for God will result in Labour. That is a “Labour of Love (vs 10).”

Labour is indicative of some kind of **WORK**. Many of us understand that the word **“WORK”** is a four letter word and folks often do not like work. The thing about this **labor of love** is that it is a work that is a compulsory work. In other words, this work does not pay much in this corrupt world.

Illustration – I was told when entering the gospel ministry that work in the ministry does not pay much, but the retirement is out of this world. I have found this to be true.

If you really Love God as the great commandment requires,

Matthew 22:37–38 - Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** ³⁸**This is the first and great commandment.**

Then the result of this great love, **which must be the greatest love of your life,** will be you will Labour in this love. Loving God as you ought to love God will result in you just automatically and naturally serving God. You just wont be able to help yourself. **Your love for God will compell you to work for God.**

Secondly, a Labor of Love for God will result in you Laboring in love for that which God loves. What does God love more than anything else? People!

Hence the Second Great Commandment,

Matthew 22:39 - *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

2 Pet 3.9

And the rest of Hebrews 6.10,

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.***

You will labour for God by labouring in ministry to the saints and the people God loves. How many people does God love?

John 3:16 - *For God so loved **the world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

2 Peter 3:9 - *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

Jn 13.34

Our Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father love all people. So should we.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

John 13:34–35 - *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.* ³⁵**By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

If we love God as we ought then we will **Labor in Love** in doing the ministry of God for all those people around us.

This is a labor, **it is work**, it is often **HARD** and **FRUSTRATING WORK**. It is often not easy to minister to those people around us. Many of them do not want to be ministered to. But we must Labor in a Labor of Love for God and them.

Some of the hardest ministry in the Church is the ministry to kids. It is hard enough, at times to minister to Church kids, but just try to minister to unchurched kids. Wow, that is a real Labor and sometimes stretches the words **“LABOR OF LOVE.”**

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A. A Labor of Insistence – Labor of Love

Our Love for God will demand a Labor of Love in ministry to other people!

B. A Labor of Diligence (vs 11) - And we desire that every one of you do shew *the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:* - We now must focus on the duration of this Labor of Love in ministry.

I have often heard elderly saints say, “Preacher, I have served my time in ministry toward our lord, but I am getting very old now and must pass on this ministry to the younger generation.

There is some truth in this statement. One of our great focuses in ministry is that we **find a way to reporduce ourselves**. That is pass on our faith (doctrine) and service in what we beleive to those who are coming behind us.

The false part of that statement is that we can never retire from a Labor of Love. We must continue diligently all the way to the end. We must continue to work in this Labor of Love until we have received our Full Assurance Of Hope, that is until we step into the very presence or our Lord Jesus Christ, either through death or glorious Rapture.

There must be a diligence in our Labor of Love.

This means we never quit Laboring in our Love for our Lord.

I have had people often say to me, “I am useless in ministry so I am just going to sit here and wait for the Rapture or Death.” I have seen people sit down in their Lazy-Boy chair and just sit there day after day waiting for the Lord to take their life. I have had people say, “Preacher why does the Lord let me continue to live like this?”

The answer is simple, God does not want you to just endure in life like that. God wants you to **Labor in Love** in ministry. So stop wishing for death and Labor in Love toward God. **In other words find something you can do for God and just do it!**

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A. A Labor of Insistence – Labor of Love
B. A Labor of Diligence

Diligently labor until the end. Do you know what it looks like to diligently endure to the end?

Illustration – The late **Jerry Falwell Sr.** was the founder of Liberty University. He was a rock solid King James Bible preacher throughout his life. The wolves came in after him and sold out that university to the devil’s books. He Labored in Love for the Lord diligently all the way to the end. He went into work one day, went into his office. After a long while his secretary went into his office and there he was sitting in his desk chair with his forehead in the desk. His secretary thought he might be praying, in a odd way. But soon realized that he had died and gone to his eternal home. He served all the way to his last day on this earth.

We are to Labor in Love for your Lord in ministry diligently to the end.

C. **A Labor of Endurance (vs 12)** - *That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.* - **This is to Labor in Love with endurance.** The example provided is Abraham.

1. **Our Example – Abraham (vs 13-17)** – Look at,

Hebrews 6:15 - *And so, after he had **patiently endured**, he obtained the promise.*

Abraham was called by God,

- To leave his own country and go into a strange land when he was 60 years old.

- Leave a heritage, Isaac, in a promised land. He was not given Isaac for forty years and never really possessed the land God promised him.

Yet Abraham patiently endured for the duration of his life. All his life Abraham trusted the promises that God gave him. Even when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac, who God said was his heir of promise. Abraham trusted and obeyed God and His promises.

Abraham trusted God so much that he fully intended to obey God and sacrifice Isaac believing,

*Hebrews 11:17–19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: ¹⁹**Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead;** from whence also he received him in a figure.*

Abraham believed and trusted God and endured all the way to the end.

You say you Love God?

Do you Love God enough to Labor in Love for God?

Do you love those that God Loves enough to minister to them?

Do you Love God enough to diligently serve God all the way to fulfillment of God promises toward you?

What does your life and ministry reveal that you love most in your life? What do you serve?

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**A. A Labor of Insistence – Labor of Love
B. A Labor of Diligence
C. A Labor of Endurance - Abraham**