Intro.

A. The Bible abounds with the words of the text -- "steadfast," "sure and steadfast, and entering into the veil. "Hope" our anchor (Heb. 6:19 -NKJV) 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, "steadfast to the end" (Heb. 3:14)(NKJV) ---- 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

1. Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
2. Psa 57:7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.
3. Psa 78:37 For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.
4. Psa 108:1 A Song. A Psalm of David. O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.
5. Psa 112:7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

B. "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13).

C. Stability and activity are two most essential qualities every local church must possess -- and each member must develop these traits personally. Without stability drifting away from solid moorings is always a danger.

II. "BE YE STEADFAST"

A. The temptation to waver is always present.

1. Times change the moral values of people -- Note: attitude toward dress, drinking, and divorce is most noticeable now. So much has changed for the worse.
2. It is always easier to go with the crowd -- but, "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil..." (Ex. 23:2).

B. When temptations come beckoning us to deviate from the strait and narrow way, remember Christ.

1. Luke 9:51 -- "Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem."
2. Christ influenced Paul: "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).
   a. NOTE: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).
3. "The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him" (Psa. 28:7).

III. UNMOVEABLE (Like the "cedars of Lebanon")

A. "The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon" (Psa. 29:5).

B. Storms come to each life to test our stability.

1. Like David, we can overcome -- "He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved (shaken)" (Psa. 62:2).
2. As the world changes around us, we must remain unmoved by it all. (Romans 12:1-3 -- do not be conformed).
   a. Romans 12:1-3 (NKJV) ---- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of
your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

C. We have an unchanging Lord (Heb. 1:11,12; 13:8).
1. Hebrews 1:11 (NKJV) ----- 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment;
   a. Hebrews 1:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.”
   b. Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) ---- 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
2. He will not be moved from keeping His promises.
3. We can do all things through Him who gives us strength
   a. "I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved" (Psa. 16:8).

IV. ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD
A. There are new horizons waiting for us as a local church.
   1. We have so much new ground before us every day.
   2. We have so much talent among us -- needs to be put to effective use.
B. Abounding means: "being more than enough, being rich to superfluity, abounding." -- Lenski.
   1. Lenski added, "What a word for the thousands who work, pray, give, suffer as little as possible! Because of our wealth of heavenly spoils and our eternal victory in Christ we can afford to abound. We are not called to idleness and mere enjoyment but to diligent effort 'in the work of the Lord'."
   2. With leadership, cooperation by everyone, optimism and enthusiasm, we will abound in the Lord's work.
   3. Bud Wilkenson, former football coach at Oklahoma University once described football as a game where thousands of people who desperately need exercise, sit and watch 22 men exercising with all they have who desperately need rest.
      a. Apply this to the work of the Lord.
      b. Every hand added to the work force makes the force that much stronger.
C. THE GREAT INCENTIVE
   1. Labor "in the Lord" is not in vain.
   2. Literally the word means "not empty."
   3. If our work in the Lord is not empty -- it is filled with productivity. (Matt. 28:20; 20:8; Luke 19:17).
      a. Matthew 28:20 (NKJV) ---- 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.
      b. Matthew 20:8 (NKJV) ---- 8 “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’
      c. Luke 19:17 (NKJV) ---- 17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’
D. The great reward is made sure -- Paul proved it by proving Christ had been raised from the dead.
E. All other labor in this life is empty (John 6:27; cf. Matt. 7:23).
   1. John 6:27 (NKJV) ---- 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

Page 2 of 3
2. Matthew 7:23 (NKJV) — 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

F. "Where there is no battle, there is no victory." - James Gray.

Concl.
A. Progress is based on a firm and stable foundation that grows and produces.
B. Let us press on to perfection -- not having to continually lay new foundations (Heb. 6:1-3).
   1. Hebrews 6:1-3 (NKJV) — 1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.
C. And progress can be realized in the words of Paul -- "Finally brethren, farewell, Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss" (2 Cor. 13:11-12).
   1. 2 Corinthians 13:11-12 (NKJV) — 11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

---