

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is upon us -- it is the first Monday in September, a Legal Holiday honoring Labor. The dictionary describes labor as, "physical or mental exertion, work, a specific task, wage earning."

As we honor labor on this Holiday let us thank God for the job we have, for the ability to work, to earn money to supply the needs of our families.

We hear much today of the need of jobs and the many people who are hurting for the lack of a job. Blame for this is hurled by the politicians at each other for not providing jobs to all who want and need them.

Honest labor, honest jobs, and the willingness of wanting to do a good job for fair wages is ever before us.

Jesus Christ admonishes us, "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls*" (Matthew 12:28-29). These words of our Savior offer rest of the soul for all who diligently do their work honestly and fervently in appreciation for their jobs.

The Apostle Paul urges us, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*" (1 Corinthians 15:58). He also tells us later on that we are to do our work as unto the Lord and not to man (Ephesians 6:7) -- to do our very best at all times, to honor God.

In fact the two verses preceding this tell it like it really is, "*Workers, be obedient to those who are your employers according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ -- not with eye service, as men pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart*" (Ephesians 6:5-6).

The Lord Jesus even goes so far as to say, "*I know your works, your labor, your patience*" (Revelation 2:2). In other words the Lord is watching our attitudes concerning the quality of our work for our employers -- and -- how we really put our full efforts into the work at hand.

Let's consider these verses as we celebrate Labor Day this year and thank God that we have employment, and be diligent in earning our pay.

To the many unemployed in our nation we offer prayer that jobs will open up for everyone who wants to work and that the coming months will prove to be an encouragement and hope for better times to come.

A word of hope to those looking for work -- perhaps a period of learning a new skill, accepting a different line of work that will eventually lead to a better paying job, or to further your education for some soul satisfying position.

Consider the Lord God in all your decisions and seek to please Him above all in the job that will meet your needs.

The Psalmist says it this way, *“When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you”* (Psalm 128:2).

This LABOR DAY -- let us all be thankful and seek to please the Lord in all that we do.

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