

Labor Day

By Mark Hatfield
Revelation 14:12-13

Introduction

1. At this time of the year we celebrate a national holiday called, “Labor Day”. In doing some research I discovered that Labor Day has been recognized since the 1880’s but was made a Federal holiday in 1894.
2. Labor Day was originally designed to be a day off for hard working citizens and up until this time we also celebrate the diligent labor of all workers who have helped us to make economic advancements in this country. It does seem odd to call this day, “Labor Day”, when indeed most laborers are resting on this day.
3. Getting a little rest and relaxation after putting in a great number of hours in service is not only rewarding but is necessary. God himself even took a day of rest after working for six days in creating the world (Gen. 2:2).
4. We also read how God commanded Israel to work for six days and then sanctify the seventh day for a Sabbath rest (Exodus 20:8-10)
5. While there remains a rest for the people of God today, according to the Lord, every day is a day of labor in His service until that day when we are resting in His presence for all eternity (Heb. 4:2-13)
6. Until then we must equip ourselves with the word of God so that we can do every good work with zeal and dedication (II Tim. 3:16-17; Titus 2:14; 3:1)

I. The Importance of Labor

- A. There is no doubt that God wants us to be diligent in labor.
(I Thess. 4:11-12; II Thess. 3:7-15; Eph. 4:28; Phil 1:21-22a; I Cor. 15:58)
 1. It is up to us to make sure that we are laboring the way the Lord would expect
(I Thess. 1:2-4; 2:9-10; 3:5-8; 5:12-14; Eph. 2:10; Col. 1:9-12; 3:23-25)
- B. The Bible provides wisdom for the importance of a solid work ethic
(Ecc. 2:22-24; 3:12-13; 5:18-20; Prov. 12:24; 14:23; 18:9; 21:25)
 1. We will be held accountable for the work that we do for the Lord
(I Cor. 3:6-15; 9:1a; 16:10, 15-16; I Tim. 4:10-11; Gal. 6:4-5; Eph. 4:11-13, 16; Phil. 2:12-13; I Pet. 1:17)

II. Our Example for Labor

- A. Jesus is our example for being about the Father’s business and completing His work (John 4:34; 17:4) Jesus could say in death, “It is finished”.
 1. Jesus knew that He would not be on earth forever and told the disciples to pray that laborers would be sent to the fields to harvest souls (Luke 10:2).
 2. This prayer of Jesus must continue today because the harvest is plentiful but there is a shortage of diligent workers (John 17:17-20)
 3. The Lord may have an appointed work that He wants you to do (Acts 13:1-2)
 4. Don’t let the Lord or your brethren down by being unwilling to get to work
(Acts 15: 36-40)
 5. Jesus even extended the invitation to find rest in Him, by calling all who labor and are weighed down and He would give them rest. (Matt. 11:28-30)

6. It is up to us to continue heralding that invitation in the work of the Lord (Matthew 5:16).

III. Our Reward for Labor

- A. Our efforts will not be overlooked by the Lord when we work faithfully for Him (Heb. 6:10-12)
 1. We will not live here forever, but while we remain we must work (Ps. 90:9-10).
 2. We need to use our talents to work in the Lord's kingdom so that our focus is not on temporal things, but on eternity (I Tim. 6:17-19)
 3. God will continually perfect us and help us accomplish the work that we are commanded to complete (Phil 1:3-6)
 4. Our Labor Day is coming, when we rest from our labors and our works do follow us.

Application

1. My prayer for us today can be taken from II Thessalonians 2:16-17, which says, "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word."
2. Remember that everyday is a day of labor for the disciple of Christ until we enter the eternal rest of heaven.
3. Let us close today with a parable of Matthew 20:1-16.
4. If we can help you in any way to be a worker for the Lord, let us know while we stand and sing the song of encouragement. This is the only way that you can have a hope of entering into His rest. Obey the Lord today and serve Him faithfully for as you as you live.