

## It's Labor Day

Text : **Gen. 2: 7-9, 15-17 , 3: 17-19 ; Col. 3: 22-25**

S#1.

S#2.

### A. Labor Day has an interesting history.

1. It's a "secular" holiday that's celebrated even by heathens, w/ religious implications.
2. Most of the world celebrates it on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. The socialist Robert Owen who established a colony in Indiana was the first in U.S.
  - a. In 1887 the Knights of Labor celebrated a day to honor labor.
  - b. 1887 Colorado passed a law establishing first Monday in September as Labor Day.
  - c. 23 other states followed suit.
  - d. In 1894 congress established it as a national holiday.

### B. The cause of the working man has advanced a remarkable amount in last 100 yrs

1. In 1830 the most worked 6 days and 13 hours days were the rule with an hour lunch.
2. In 1840 President Van Buren reduced the work day to 10 hours, but still six days.
3. It wasn't until the early 1900s that the 8 hour day swept the nation.
4. The 5 day work week was started by Henry Ford in 1926.
5. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1933 revolutionized labor. (*in great depression*)
  - a. It established a minimum wage \$0.25 per hour. ( average \$438 per year )
  - b. Limited overtime to 4 hours and required time and a half be paid.
  - c. Restricted child labor. (*under 16 could not work during school hours* )
6. Paid vacations were unheard of until after 1940.
- \* 7. The cause of the working man has truly improved in this country.
- \* *These advances brought with them changing attitudes toward work.*

S#3.

### C. The promotion of a good work ethic is essential to democracy as a government.

1. About 1790 professor Alexander Fraser Tytler famously wrote :  
Democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largesse out of the public treasure. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefit from the public treasury, with the result that democracy always collapses over a loose fiscal policy, always to be followed by a dictatorship, and then a monarchy. (*average great society lasts 200 yrs* )
2. Mr. Titler was a Scottish advocate, judge, a writer and an historian who served as Professor of Universal History, and Greek and Roman Antiquities at the University of Edinburgh.

**D. This principle stated by professor Titler is commonly called the “tipping point.”**

1. *As a nation we are approaching this tipping point.* ( record debt & # on assistance )
2. Some states have already reached the tipping point, e.g., Hawaii :
  - a. In 2013 a mother of 2 received \$49,175 in gov. assistance which is non-taxable.
  - b. If taxed a person would have needed to earn \$60,590 to take home \$49, 175.
  - c. At that time a class 2 school teacher ( 1to 5 yrs ) with a BA started at \$43, 759
3. **THUS ...** we see that teaching a good work ethic is essential to national survival.

**S#4.****Our lesson will demonstrate that Christians are required to have a good work ethic.****I. Work has always been a good gift from God.****S#5.****A. God created man to do specific work for Him.****S#6.**

1. **Gen. 2: 15** – Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
2. That garden was a very large area ... possibly the size of a state.

**B. Man’s work was not difficult until the ground was cursed.****S#7.**

1. Notice the curse came because the man listened to his wife. *What does that mean ?*
2. **Gen. 3: 17b-19a** ... Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. **18** Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; **19** By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground ...

**C. In the Ten Commandments God expected men to work.****S#8.**

1. **Gen. 20: 8-10** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, ...
2. This commandment has two parts : 1– Work 6 days 2– Don’t work on 7<sup>th</sup> day
3. **Gen. 2: 2** – By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done and **S#9.** He rested on the seventh day from all the work that He had done.

**D. The Proverbs exalt work as a laudable endeavor.****S#10.**

1. **Prov. 12: 11** – He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, ...
2. **Prov. 12: 24** – The hand of the diligent will rule,
2. **Prov. 13: 23** – In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads to poverty.
3. **Prov. 22: 29** – Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; ...
4. **Prov. 31** ... Woman brings food from afar, rises up before dawn, buys and sells, ...

**II. Work is also required in the Christian era.****S#11.****A. Jesus was known for the work He did with His hands.****S#12.**

**Mark 6: 3** – Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" ....

**S#13.****B. Jesus called Apostles who worked. ( *Not standbys who needed something to do.* )**

1. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen.

a. **Mark 1: 16** – As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.

**S#14.**

b. **Luke 5: 10** – so also were James and John, ..., who were partners with Simon

2. Mathew collected taxes.

**S#15.**

**Matt. 9: 9** – from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.

3. Paul made tents.

a. **Acts 18: 3** – Because he (*Paul*) was of the same trade, he stayed with them and (*Aquila & Priscilla*) they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers.

b. **I Thes. 2: 9** – For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **S#16.**

c. **Acts 20: 34-35** You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak, ...

**C. Christians are commanded to be people who work.****S#17.**

1. It must be the Christian's desire to work.

**I Thes. 4: 11** – and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,

2. To refuse to work is sin and we may not assist one who will not work.

**II Thes 3: 10** – For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. **S#18.**  
<sup>11</sup> For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

3. Christian is commanded to provide for his family. ( *I Tim 6:8 food & covering* ) **S#19.**

**I Tim. 5: 8** – But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

### III. A Christian's view of work is fundamental to his faith.

S#20.

S#21.

#### A. When we read the word "slave" or "bondservant" in scripture, think employee.

1. One third of all the people in the Roman Empire were slaves.
2. The city of Corinth was about 700,000 and two thirds of them were slaves.
3. One could become a slave in many different ways and at different levels.
  - a. One who could not pay a debt would often work it off as a slave or give a child.
  - b. A poor person could go to someone and ask to be accepted as a slave.
  - c. People captured in war were sold as slaves to pay the price of the war.
  - d. Criminals could be sold as slaves. *This was the lowest class, e.g., galley slaves.*
  - e. Jacob sold himself for 7 years to earn a wife; and when cheated served 7 more.
4. People today also sell themselves into "slavery" ( *servanthood* ) in a variety of ways.
  - a. We sell ourselves by the hour, the week or by the job. ( honorable )
  - b. We sell ourselves to credit card companies, to banks, to mortgage companies, etc.

**Prov. 22: 7 – The rich rules over the poor,** S#22.  
And the borrower becomes the lender's slave.

#### B. In a true sense all mankind are slaves. ( *even free men* )

S#23.

1. God owns all men. He is our creator. ( **Gen. 2 ; Psa. 24** ) *Made us out of His dirt.*
2. When man rebels against the rule of God in His life, he becomes the slave of Satan.
3. **Rom. 6: 17-18** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ( *There is no 3<sup>rd</sup> choice* )

#### C. When a Christian serves an employer he must do it in such a way as to glorify his true Master .. Jesus the Christ, the Lord of Lords. **THUS ...**

S#24.

1. The way a Christian conducts himself in the workplace has religious significance  
**Col 3:22-24** Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, S#25.  
 not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
2. **THUS ...** Our conduct on the job reflects our attitude toward Christ. S#26.
  - a. **Eph. 6: 5 – Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; <sup>6</sup> not by way of eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ.**

- b. “**Eye-service**” means that you work differently when the boss is watching.
- 3. Whatever our job may be, we are to do it with great zeal. S#27.
  - a. **Col. 3: 23** – **Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,**
  - b. This requires a positive attitude, one who works without complaining.
  - c. It also requires that one put forth industrious effort and develop his skills.
- 4. What if your boss is mean, unreasonable and unfair or just plain incompetent ?
  - a. **I Pet. 2: 18-19** – **Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.** <sup>19</sup> **For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.** S#28.
  - b. God is aware of the conduct of your boss **AND** your response to his conduct.
  - c. Your response will affect your relationship with God ... **favor or not.**
- \* 5. As a Christian one is never off duty; we must live worthily ... 24 x 7 x 365
- D. The way we work can affect our eternal destiny.** S#29.
  - 1. **Col. 3: 25** – **For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.**
    - a. One cannot be saved by a good work ethic or good by works. **Eph. 2: 8-9**
    - b. **Jas. 2: 14-26** .. One's actions are an indicator of his faith. ( *fruit of the tree* ) S#30.
  - 2. **Col. 3: 23-24** – **Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,** <sup>24</sup> **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.** ( Cf – **Heb. 13: 16** God is pleased )
    - a. Reward does not refer to receiving a raise or a promotion.
    - b. Heaven is not a communistic society. Some will have more treasures / rewards.
    - c. Social Security and 401k are solutions to a short term condition – Heaven isn't.

**S#31.**

#### **IV. Salvation is totally by grace through faith, but God expects physical effort.**

**S#32.**

- A. God assigned His followers of old tasks that required great dedication/effort.**
  - 1. **Noah** was commanded to build an Ark which took 100 years to complete.
  - 2. **Moses** was required to lead the nation of Israel for 40 years beginning at 80.
  - 3. **Jonah** was required to preach in the enemy's capitol.
  - 4. **Hosea** was required to marry a prostitute, **Jeremiah** to preach while persecuted.

S#33.

**B. Christians are created to do service above what is required of all mankind.**

1. The function of all men is to be the stewards of God's creation. **Gen 1:28, 2:15, 3:23**
2. **Eph. 2: 10** – **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**
3. **James 2: 14-26** ... explains that physical service is the proof, the fruit of our faith.
4. The accomplishing of good for others is one of our fundamental functions in Christ.
  - a. **Titus 3: 1** – **Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, #34. to be ready for every good deed, 2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.**
  - b. **Titus 3: 8** – **This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.**
  - c. **Titus 3: 14** – **Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.**

S#36.

**C. The motivation for a Christian working is to finance the ministry of good deeds.**

1. Christians do NOT work for earthly prosperity.
  - a. **I Tim. 6: 8** – **If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.**
  - b. **Matt. 6: 19** – **Do not store up treasures on earth;**
2. We work for the privilege of helping others.
  - a. **Eph. 4: 28** – **He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, S#37. performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.**
  - b. **Acts 20: 35** – **In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**

**CONCLUSION :**

S#38.

**A. As we celebrate Labor Day let us remember that work is a good gift from God.**

1. We should work and do so with a joyful heart. (*Natural as for a bird to fly.*)
2. Christians work in such a way as to consciously bring glory to our Lord Christ.
3. We work not for gain but to provide for our needs and the needs of others.

**B. Our attitude toward work reflects our attitude toward Christ / toward God.****INVITATION :**

All are servants. Who are you serving ?

S#39.

S#40. .... *Communion Slide*

**Lesson Text :****Genesis 2: 7-9**

7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Genesis 2: 15-17**

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

**Genesis 3: 17-19**

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it';

Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**Colossians 3: 22-25**

22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. 25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.



## TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION - THE STORY OF WILLIAM WALDORF AND GEORGE C. BOLDT



WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR AND NANCY ASTOR



GEORGE CHARLES BOLDT  
(April 25, 1851 to December 5, 1916)  
He was a Prussian-born American hotelier. A self-made millionaire, he influenced the development of urban hotel as a civic social centre and luxury destination.

It was a stormy night. an elderly couple looking for a room for a night, came to **Belle Vue Hotel, Philadelphia**. The young clerk at the desk informed the couple that all rooms of his hotel were booked and also that not a single hotel room was available that night in Philadelphia because of an international conference.

However, seeing their plight, he decided not to let them to go out in that bad weather. He, therefore, offered them his personal room. The couple were reluctant as that would cause great inconvenience to the young clerk. *"Where are you going to sleep, young man, if you give your room to us?"* asked the old man. *"Oh, I am young and single. I can sleep at the reception area in the night. I insist that you accept my offer as I cannot let you go out in this storm. You may not even get a taxi in this kind of weather."* Having been left with no choice, the elderly couple accepted the young man's offer and spent the night in his personal room.

Next morning, before leaving the hotel the old man after having expressed his gratitude offered a handsome reward to the young man. *"Please don't embarrass me with offer of money for my room. I didn't give my room expecting any monetary compensation. I just wanted to be of some help to you."* The old man was really touched by the young man's compassion as well as high sense of honesty. *"You are really a good human being, my son! I thought God had stopped making people like you. What are you doing herein such a small hotel? A person like you should become the manager of the best hotel in the world."*

*"I am quite happy working here in this small hotel and moreover, I don't have skills to run anything bigger than this. However, thank you for your kind words and compliments."* said the clerk.



*"Tell me, if I built some day the best hotel in the world, would you come and join me?"* asked the old man with a cunning smile. The young man thought this as some kind of jovial gesture of an old man at an emotional moment. *"Yes, if you built one, I will definitely join"*, said the young man, wanting somehow to get rid of the old couple as he had to take up the pressing list of day's work lying on his desk. *"Good bye"*, said the old man. *"You would hear from me soon."* *"Good bye"*, replied the young clerk.

Three years passed, the young clerk was already promoted to become manager of the hotel. While going through his mail one day, he opened an envelope and found a return air ticket to New York, with an invitation letter to attend an inaugural function. However, not much details about why was he invited, were given.

The young man became curious and decided to go. Upon his arrival at New York, the young man was welcomed by his host who personally took him downtown. There, in front of him, lay the finest hotel he had ever seen.

*"That,"* said the gentleman, *"is the hotel I built for you to manage."* While standing on the street corner beside the soon-to-be world-renowned WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL, the young clerk, **GEORGE C. BOLDT**, was titled its first manager.

For the next twenty three years, until his death in 1916, Boldt remained faithful to the hotel and to the confidence **WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR** had placed in him.

If approaching one's job with a great attitude can impress a man sufficiently to motivate such a reward, just imagine the reward God will give to those who serve with distinction.