

Everyday Labor A 9-6-20

Text : **II Thes. 3: 6-15 , Col. 3: 17-25**

S#1.

A. In 1894 we had a major shift in American attitudes toward labor.

S#2.

1. The workers at the Pullman Car Company started asking for a raise.
 - a. George Pullman responded by cutting their wages by 25%.
 - b. Pullman employees were housed in company housing which was not reduced.
2. The Pullman employees went to the American Railway Union which called a strike.
 - a. The strike started with 125, 000 men and grew to 260, 000.
 - b. It shut down 29 railroads which shut down business in the whole country.
3. The strike dragged on for months.
 - a. George Pullman closed his factory. **Sign : “Closed Until Further Notice”**
 - b. The strike turned ugly when workers sabotaged trusses and derailed engines. **80mil**
4. President Grover Cleveland (Dem. of NY) was very angered by this strike.
 - a. Pres. Cleveland found an excuse to get the government involved when the engine of a mail train was derailed. (*railroads feared pulling Pullman cars*)
 - b. He sent in 12,000 federal troops who killed 30 and wounded 57 in Chicago streets.
5. Six days after the strike was over congress established the first Monday in September as a national holiday called Labor Day.
 - a. The holiday was a bone thrown to labor to appease them after the strike.
 - b. The union president, Eugene Debs, was thrown in jail for 6 months and became an avowed Marxist while incarcerated. (Socialist Party of America)
6. Though we may wish it had a more auspicious origin, tomorrow is Labor Day.

S#3.

B. In recognition of Labor Day we will observe four scriptural points about labor.

1. God made man to work.
2. Jesus requires that we work for Him.
3. Our work in the Lord is not FOR salvation.
4. Our work can be evangelistic or not.

I. God created man to work.

S#4.

A. The very first man and woman were put into the garden to work.

S#5.

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. God allowed them to eat of the garden in exchange for being stewards.

B. When God gave His law to His people, Israel, He anticipated they would work.

1. Assuming labor and times when the pressure is on
Exod. 34: 21 – You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during plowing time and harvest you shall rest. **S#6.**
2. Working for 6 days is repeated several times in the O.T.
 - a. **Lev. 23: 3** – For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a sabbath to the Lord in all your dwellings.
 - b. Compare : **Exod. 20:9-10, 23:12** – Six days you shall labor, **31:1, Deut. 5: 13-16**

C. Working for our living is also a N.T. concept.

1. Jesus worked as a carpenter for perhaps 20 yrs. and only preached for three.
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#7.**
2. The Apostle Paul worked hard outside the ministry.
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.
3. Christians are told to work to support themselves.
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#8.**
11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. **12** Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.
4. Christians are commanded to work and earn so they can share. (*Support, share, enjoy*)
Eph. 4: 28 – He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. **S#9.**

D. America prospered because Christian settlers had been taught to be industrious.

1. **Prov. 10: 4** – Poor is he who works with a negligent hand,
 But the hand of the diligent makes rich. **S#10.**
2. **Eccl. 5: 12** – The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep.
3. We are instructed not to do anything halfheartedly.
Eccl. 9: 10 – Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; **S#11.**
 for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom

in Sheol where you are going.

II. Jesus requires that we work for Him.

S#12.

A. Jesus told parables that demand action ... work ... active participation. S#13.

1. **Luke 10: 29-37** ... The parable of the Good Samaritan demands action.
 - a. He provided care for a stranger.
 - b. He made a financial investment in the stranger.
 - c. Jesus commanded that we “*Go and do the same.*” Vs. 37
2. **Matt. 25: 14-30** ... A master entrusted his capital to his servants in his absence.
 - a. He gave to each one according to his own ability. (*Master is Jesus, entrusted gospel*)
 - b. He did not assign each one a quota, but judged them on their production.
 - c. He had absolutely NO patience with the lack of results and lack of effort.
 - 1) The two talent man was not scolded for not matching the five talent man.
 - 2) Even though the one talent man WAS truthful, His excuses were not accepted.
 - 3) The excuses of the 1 talent man are the most common excuses today. **FEAR**
3. **Matt. 24: 45-51** ... The parable of the servant who became unfaithful.
 - a. This servant started off well, **but** became discouraged at the long delay.
 - b. Jesus is warning us that there will be a delay.
 - c. He is warning us not to stop completing our assignment.

B. The assignment that we are given is to carry on the work of our Master while He is off of the planet sustaining what He built.

1. **Rom. 8: 33** – Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. S#14.
2. Like the Master's talents, Jesus entrusted His treasure to us ... *the gospel*.
Mark 16: 15 – And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** " He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. ... **19** So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. S#15.
3. Jesus told the parable of the vine and branches to instruct us to bear fruit.
 - a. **John 15: 2** – Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. S#16.
 - b. **John 15: 8** – My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so **prove to be My disciples.**

c. Thus, the bearing of fruit is a test of discipleship.

C. So what is the bearing of fruit ?

1. **Rom 1:13** – I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have S#17.
planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may
obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.
2. Bearing fruit is seeing people saved by grace through faith in the risen Christ.
Rom. 7: 4 – Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law
through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him
who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

D. As Christians we are created to be active in God's service.

1. **Eph. 2:10** – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good S#18.
works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
2. We are admonished to ABOUND in good works ... anticipating a reward.
I Cor. 15: 58 – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that
your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

III. Our work in the Lord is not FOR salvation.

S#19.

A. We are clearly instructed that we cannot work our way to Heaven.

Eph. 2:8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and S#20.
that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a
result of works, so that no one may boast.

B. Christ wipes away sin as often as we commit it and repent for it.

1. **I John 1: 6 – 2:2** ... (*paraphrase it*)
2. **Rom. 8: 1** – Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are
in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has set you free from the law of sin and of death.
3. *We don't need works because there are no charges against us.*

C. Any righteousness we have has been imputed to us.

1. **Rom. 5: 12** – Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, S#21.
and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because
all sinned — **13** for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is
not imputed when there is no law.
2. Faith is credited or imputed to the Christian as righteousness.
Rom. 4: 5 – But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who

justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.

IV. Our work (*employment or business*) can be evangelistic or the opposite.

S#22.

A. Whatever we do (*good or evil*) reflects on God.

1. **Col. 3: 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.
2. When you wear the name “*Christian*” your reputation is also HIS reputation.

S#23.

B. Christians work without complaining.

1. **Phil. 2: 14** – Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ **SO that you** will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,
2. This is one of the “thoughts and motives” God will judge when he comes.

S#24.

C. How the Christian responds to an unreasonable boss can be evangelistic.

1. **I Pet. 2: 18** 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. ¹⁹ For this finds favor, **IF** for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.
2. Showing respect to an unreasonable boss is evangelistic IF others know why.
3. **Eph 6:5** – ... in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

S#25.

CONCLUSION :

B. We have observed :

1. God made man to work.
2. Jesus requires that we work for Him.
3. Our work in the Lord is not FOR salvation.
4. Our work can be evangelistic or just the opposite.

A. On this their holiday, we pay tribute to and honor all working people.

S#27.

1. It celebrates those who make America the greatest country on this earth.
2. It celebrates a time honored Christian virtue ... that of industriousness.
3. Holidays are great because the body needs rest.

INVITATION :**Lesson Text :****II Thessalonians 3: 6-15**

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. **7** For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, **8** nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; **9** not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. **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. **11** For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. **12** Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. **13** But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. **15** Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Colossians 3: 17-25

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. **20** Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

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.

