

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 - Labor Day 2020

Introduction - On this Day of Rest I have the privilege of speaking on the subject of work -(fitting). Work often has a bad reputation as though it is a bad thing. Work is not an evil or even a necessary evil; WORK is good and a necessary good. We were created to work and are commanded to work. Now, work has been cursed because of our sin but work is still our calling. The Protestant work ethic is that work is seen as a gift of God, a calling from God and all work is to be done for the glory of God.

So on the Labor Day weekend we are going to extol God's gift of labor

CREATED TO WORK

- Adam was put in a garden to work. Gen. 2:15
 - o 3 institutions before the Fall/Sin - Work, Marriage and the Sabbath
 - o Our sin has effected all 3, and the devil attacks all 3, but all 3 are still very good
 - All 3 are intertwined and central to our existence as human beings
- Work is part of our purpose from creation
 - o There is dignity in work. Satisfaction of doing what I was made to do
 - o All hard work brings profit Prov. 14:23
 - “there are no menial jobs, only menial attitudes” W. Bennett
- Working hard is recommended and commanded
 - o Six days you shall work...(Ex. 20:9) Eccles. 9:10 Col. 3:23
 - o “work while you work, play while you play, one thing at a time, that is the way, in all that you do, do with your might, things done by halves are not done right”
 - o We are to provide for ourselves by our hard work
 - 1 Thess. 4:11-12 2 Thess. 3:6-15 – labor & not burden, busy not busybody
 - “use your brain not mine” (kids 4th grade teacher)
- Being a sluggard, lazy or idle is condemned
 - o Prov. 6:6-11 Prov. 21:25-26 Prov. 26:13-16
 - o Song - “I don’t wanna work, I just want to bang on the drum all day...”
 - o If you don’t work, then you don’t eat – that is a Christian principle (2 Thess. 3:10)

WORK FOR OTHERS

- Work is the means not just to provide for ourselves but to provide for our family – (primarily)
 - o 1 Timothy 5:8
 - Men should work to provide. (not ready to cleave unto ready to leave)
- We work so we can have the ability to provide for others in their need
 - o Ephesians 4:28 More blessed to give than to receive – Acts 20:35

- Work hard for others
 - o Honest days work for and honest days wage
 - Dishonest gain is taking money that you didn't work for Titus 1:7
 - The workman is to be worthy of his hire Luke 10:7
 - "you wicked and lazy servant, you should have... Matt. 25:26
 - Employees should not steal by shirking work. Half work for full pay = theft
 - o Bosses shouldn't steal from employees by paying low wage
 - Taking advantage of "cheap labor" is theft on the part of the employer
 - Half pay for full work is just as much theft as half work for full pay
 - The workman is worthy of his hire (Col. 4:1- provide what is just and fair)
 - James 5:3-5 thou shalt not steal

WORK AS UNTO THE LORD

Sin has cursed and corrupted our work life with "thorns", frustration and less than idyllic circumstances so how is this to effect the Christians work ethic?

- Christians should be the best workers even in the worse circumstances
 - o 1 Peter 2:18-21 Titus 2:9-10 1 Tim. 6:1
 - o Joseph showed his faith by diligence at work in Potiphar's house and in prison
- Our ultimate boss is Jesus
 - o Eph. 6:6-8 Col. 3:23-25
 - o He has a great benefits package Col. 3:24 Matt. 25:21 Luke 12:37
- Work hard in our faith
 - o 2 Tim. 2:15 "study.....workmen that need not be ashamed....."
 - o Matt. 9:37-38 "....harvest is plentiful but workers few. Pray.....to send workers..."
 - o We are not saved by works by saved unto works Eph. 2:8-10
 - His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good work which He prepared....

JESUS IS A WORKER

- When God became flesh He came as a carpenter Jesus was blue collar/no collar
- John 5:16-18 "My Father is always at work...an I too am working..."
 - o Jesus worked hard at all the facets of His work. Carpentry and ministry
 - He was often tired, exhausted and frustrated with His work
 - o Jesus was sent by the Father to work "I must be about my Father's business"
 - He was working for us!
 - Jesus glorified God by finishing the work John 17:4
- We are saved by Jesus' work
 - o The Christian Sabbath is changed for the creation Sabbath 1st day of week
 - We Rest in Christ's work first.
 - Then we work for Him
 - We are His family. We are His bride. Jesus works for us. We rest in Him