

The Christian's **LABOR DAY**



by Robert Hatfield

The website for the U.S. Department of Labor describes Labor Day as follows:

“It is appropriate... that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation’s strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.”

Everyone enjoys to be rewarded for hard work, and one such appreciation to hard workers is observed once each year on Labor Day.

The Bible speaks of a day in which all faithful followers of the Lord will receive a great reward for their dedicated lives of labor. Paul wrote, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). In 1 Corinthians 15, the inspired apostle encourages the labourer with reference to the victory that is made possible through Christ (15:57). Additionally, one may have confidence in the purpose of the work, and in the promises the Lord has made to his workers. Paul said that the Christian labourer does not labour in vain; a reward awaits!

Doing the Lord’s work is no simple task. In fact, Christian labour can be extremely difficult. For one to carry out this work, he or she must be willing to seek out lost souls (Luke 19:10; 1 Cor. 9:22). Workers for the Lord must be willing to diligently study and learn God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15). They must be willing to endure hardships and persecution (2 Tim. 3:12). The Christian worker will seize every opportunity to do good to all men (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 5:16). Finally, Christian workers must be willing to dedicate an entire lifetime to service. Paul described the Christian lifestyle as a “living sacrifice” (Rom. 12:1-2). The idea is that the Christian’s life is continually offered to the cause of righteous obedience. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9).

The passage in Revelation is comforting to the Lord’s servants: “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Rev. 14:13). Jesus said that He is the way, truth, and life (John 14:6), and He invites all who labour and are heavy laden to come to Him for rest (Mat. 11:28-30).

A lifetime of earthly rest will reap an eternity of punishment and grief, but a lifetime of Christian obedience will reap an eternal reward (2 Tim. 4:6-8)!

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From *The East Hill News*
Published by the East Hill Church of Christ
P.O. Box 329 • Pulaski, TN 38478
(931) ~ 363-2777