

## Celebrating Our Labors

Perhaps you are reading this on the 3-day holiday weekend called Labor Day, reclining with a cup of coffee, knowing you are not due back at work until Tuesday morning. Labor Day, celebrated the first Monday in September, “is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers.” We have achieved much in the workplace.

The Bible has plenty to say about work. From the very beginning, God created us to labor. During the time of creation God had plans for us. *“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion ...”*(Genesis 1:28). Before sin entered the world God *“took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it”* (Genesis 2:15).



God wanted us to be active and use the skills He gave us for human flourishing. The Book of Ephesians reminds us, *“We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them* (Ephesians 2:10). Also in Ephesians, Paul encouraged hard work so that we would have the means *to share with others in need* (Ephesians 4:28).

Luke echoed Paul’s desire to work hard and help others when he wrote, *“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:35)

Our job, whether current, retired or working in the home, gives us an opportunity to use the skills that God has given us. It also gives us a place to be a witness for Christ in thought, word and deed. We can approach the workplace with an attitude of love, for fellow workers, customers and all others in the workplace. *Let all that you do be done in love* (1 Corinthians 16:14). The key part of being a witness is to glorify God. *Whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

If we live our lives for God, the spiritual aspect enters every part of our being. *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.* (Colossians 3:23).



Enjoy a second cup of coffee as you prepare to let God’s light shine through you the next time you enter the workplace.

**Question:** In what ways can you transform the workplace into an opportunity to share your faith with others and to enhance your opportunity to help others?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. We know that you have planned opportunities for us to be able to give to others and to be a witness of your goodness. Amen.