

## **"THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE OF LABOR"**

**INTRO:** This is LABOR DAY WEEKEND and therefore it is very appropriate for us to examine and see what the Bible has to say about LABOR. The study of the Word of God reveals THREE TYPES OF LABOR.

- Physical Labor
- Spiritual Labor
- Divine Labor

Understanding these THREE TYPES OF LABOR and ordering our lives accordingly will enable us to be better equipped to serve our Lord Jesus. So briefly today in this message we shall consider **THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE OF LABOR.**

+++++

### **I. THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE OF PHYSICAL LABOR**

A. Physical Labor is a FIRST PRINCIPLE in the Word of God for Humanity

1. Genesis 2:15 = Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden to "DRESS AND KEEP IT." That is Labor.
2. Genesis 3:17-19 = After the FALL INTO SIN, Adam was told by God that he would labor by the "SWEAT OF HIS FACE."

**There is a lesson in this which is: SIN ALWAYS MAKES THINGS MORE DIFFICULT.**

B. Physical Labor is a COMMAND in the Word of God for Christians

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:11 = We are told to "WORK WITH OUR OWN HANDS." This involves:
  - a. Being personally active in work and labor.
  - b. Not depending upon others to do work for us that we can do for ourselves.

2. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 = We are told that "IF WE DON'T WORK WE WILL NOT EAT." **WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT HANDOUTS IF WE ARE LAZY.**

C. Physical Labor is a PRACTICE to avoid slothfulness for all people.

-Proverbs 24:30-34

ILLUSTRATION:

### **II. THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE OF SPIRITUAL LABOR**

A. Spiritual Labor is Inadequate for Salvation

1. Ephesians 2:8,9 = Salvation cannot be earned as it is God's gift.
2. Titus 3:5 = Salvation is not by "Works of Righteousness" on our part.

B. Spiritual Labor is Imparted for Service

Ephesians 2:10

1. Imparted by God for Spiritual Labor after salvation  
**SPIRITUAL LABOR = CHRISTIAN SERVICE**
2. Imparted by God for Specific Ministry after salvation  
**"GOOD WORKS...ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK"**

C. Spiritual Labor is Implied for Spiritual Effectiveness

1. We are to show a "Pattern of Good Works" Titus 2:7
2. We are to be "Zealous of Good Works" Titus 2:14
3. We are to be "Ready for Good Works" Titus 3:1
4. We are to be "Contemplating Good Works" Titus 3:8
5. We are to be "Aggressive for Good Works" Titus 3:14

**THE OBEDIENT MATURE CHRISTIAN WILL BE INVOLVED WITH GOOD WORKS FOR THE LORD AS A MATTER OF LIFESTYLE.**

ILLUSTRATION:

### **III. THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVINE LABOR**

**GOD HAS REALLY SET THE PATTERN FOR US TO FOLLOW IN LABOR**

A. God's Labor in the Universe

1. Psalm 8:3 = God worked to make the elements of the universe.
2. Psalm 19:1 = God's glory is seen in His work in creation.
3. Psalm 40:5 = God's works are MORE than can be numbered.

B. God's Labor in Christians

1. Philippians 2:13 = God works in us to enable us to His work on earth.
2. Philippians 1:6 = God's work in us will be complete at the rapture.

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION:

GOD HAS CREATED MANKIND TO HAVE A GOOD WORK ETHIC PHYSICALLY SPEAKING. GOD HIMSELF SET THE PATTERN FOR US TO FOLLOW IN LABOR. AND EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT LABOR FOR OUR SALVATION, AFTER WE ARE SAVED, SPIRITUAL LABOR IS TO DOMINATE OUR LIVES.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- 1) HOW IS YOUR WORK ETHIC?
- 2) ARE YOU TRYING TO WORK FOR YOU SALVATION? IT WILL NOT WORK AS SALVATION IS A GIFT OF GOD!
- 3) HOW IS YOUR SPIRITUAL LABOR NOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED?