

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11

The only place where success comes before work is the dictionary.
—Coach Vince Lombardi

Tomorrow, the nation celebrates Labor Day, and since it is a federal holiday, many laborers get the day off — with pay.

My mother — who lived to be 101 — grew up during the Great Depression of the 1930s. She wrote about it in a memoir called *Armchair Memories*. Here is an excerpt about her “laboring” in the spud harvest in southern Idaho:

As soon as we were old enough and strong enough, we would have to help in the harvesting of the potato crop which was usually the first two weeks or so of October. The schools were dismissed so the children could help with this job.

In those days, the 1930s, we had the potato digger which the horses pulled and the steel baskets into which each picker dropped the potatoes as he or she went down the rows. A younger child had probably gone up the row and dropped gunny sacks at reasonable spaces; and since we usually picked with a partner, when our baskets were full, we dumped the potatoes in the gunny sack and set it on the row. It was a backbreaking job, this potato-picking business. Oh, how tired we were at the end of the day! And there surely wasn't much money in it — one cent a half sack or maybe a cent and a half. We children didn't actually get the money for ourselves; we just made it possible for our dad not to have to hire too many pickers. Those were hard times, but the Lord saw us through. We were never hungry, and we were always clothed.

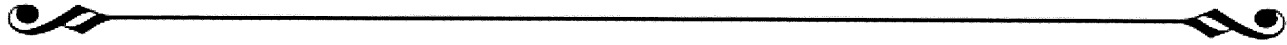
Can you remember the jobs you had before you retired? Some were probably better than others. But, we can thank God for the opportunities we had to be gainfully employed, and pray for those who are out of work, looking for work or perhaps praying for work that pays better.

And let's also remember that the Lord calls us to labor and work in his vineyards, so that we might bear the fruit of good works, and bring glory to his name! The apostle Paul puts it this way: “Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, thank you for all who work, and give it all they have. For the truckers, shopkeepers, Walmart greeters, hotel staff, business owners, fast food teens, working moms and working dads, for teachers, musicians and writers. All of them. They are a blessing. Amen.

Blessings this Labor Day
Lead Pastor Ben Metz



Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 15:1–18:11

Monday: 1 Chronicles 20-23

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 24-26

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 27-29

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 1-3

Friday: 2 Chronicles 4-6

Saturday: Psalms 97-99

LABOR DAY

LABOR DAY AND THE PEOPLE WHO LABOR

To remember with gratitude those who work hard, go through this list and make a check mark beside each occupation, if the description identifies a friend or family member. On the margins, write the names of people you know who work in occupations not listed here. Remember to pray for these people this week and to be grateful for all they do.

- Accountant
- Actor/Actress
- Cashier
- Computer Programmer
- Babysitter
- Baker/Cook
- Bank Clerk
- Barber/Hairdresser
- Bus Driver
- Business Executive
- Banker
- Carpenter
- Dentist
- Doctor
- Electrician
- Factory Worker
- Farmer

- Firefighter
- Flight Attendant
- Homemaker
- Hotel Manager
- Journalist
- Judge
- Landscaper
- Lawyer
- Librarian
- Mechanic
- Model
- Nurse
- Office Worker
- Photographer
- Pilot
- Plumber
- Police Officer

- Politician
- Letter Carrier
- Professor
- Psychologist
- Real Estate Agent
- Salesperson
- Secretary
- Security Guard
- Social Worker
- Stockbroker
- Tailor
- Teacher
- Trash Hauler
- Travel Agent
- Truck Driver
- Waiter/Waitress
- Writer