

Labor Daze
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When I was growing up, I worked on the farms during the summers. We would usually work hauling watermelons at the beginning of summer. After watermelon season was over, we would work pulling coffee weeds out of the peanuts fields. After the peanut harvest came, we would haul hay. By the end of the summer, we were glad to go back to school for some rest.

The work we did was exhausting work. There were some of us who were younger and not as strong as the older boys. Each person was given a job appropriate to their ability, but by the end of the day, we had all gone about as far as we could. If someone felt faint in the hot summer sun, we referred to him as seeing the “bear in the woods.” No one ever passed out, but a lot of times we thought we were getting close.

It was good, honest, hard work. I believe that it taught us all a lot about life. Certainly it taught me that I didn’t want to be a farmer. Mostly, though, it taught us that we were all equal in the field. The farm owner’s son worked with us. He didn’t get a better job just because of who his father was. You had to work your way up to a better position. We all did the same work, regardless of our education or background.

When we came home at the end of the day, my mother usually had the evening meal prepared for us. My brother and I would shower and get cleaned up. Exhausted, we would sit at the table and quietly eat before collapsing into bed. The next morning, it all began again with us reporting to the field at daylight. It was hard work, but at the end of it, we felt good about what we had done.

We have all known people who work hard, no matter what the task. We know others who do just enough to get by. They seem to have the philosophy that it is okay to do just enough to get by. I can look back at my own life and remember times when I settled for just good enough instead of doing my best. I wish I could go back and change it, but the best I can do now is to learn from it and determine to always do my best.

One of the reasons that I try to do my best is because God instructs His followers to do so. The Bible says in Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” In other words, we should work to do our best because what we are doing reflects upon God. If we do only enough to get by, it reflects upon the God we serve. If we do our best, it contributes to the reputation of those who follow God.

Also, if we tend to be lazy in our work for men, it is likely we will be lazy in our efforts for God. We need to develop a lifestyle of faithful service. The closing line of an award citation usually reads that someone “reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service.” Our lives should be the same way, reflecting great credit upon ourselves and the God we serve.

This Labor Day, recommit yourself to a higher level of work and service, for the Lord’s sake.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.