

GOD OF WORK*

God gives mankind work. Subduing creation is a noble blessing. God invites us to co-labor with Him.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
Genesis 2:7–9; 15 Genesis 1:26–2:15 Exodus 20:9 Nehemiah 6:16 Psalm 8 Psalm 90:7 Psalm 111 Psalm 128:1-2 Psalm 136 Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:13; 5:18 1 Corinthians 3:5–9 1 Corinthians 15:58 Colossians 1:9-20; 3:17, 23-24	A Christian’s Daily Prayer Abide with Me All I Ever Want to Be Before You I Kneel (A Worker’s Prayer) Channels Only Day by Day Give Me Jesus (Helvey) SATB Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling How Marvelous Are the... (Angerman) SATB In My Life/[Work], Lord May the Mind of Christ, My Savior Seek Ye First Sing Praise to God Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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* Part 1 of 2 in “Sabbath” series; corresponds to the Sunday before **Labor Day**. Not “God Who Works.”

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

BECAUSE GOD WORKS

Our work is a reflection of God's image in us; we work because God works. "Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they are more than can be numbered" (Psalm 40:5). God's wonderful works are beyond count! Not only did He "make the mountains rise" and "build the lofty skies," but He even now is at work making the sun rise, the flowers bloom, and the rain fall every day. But none of God's wonderful works outshine His amazing work of redemption!

LABOR DAY HISTORY

Labor Day was created to honor the workers that were often overlooked. During the Industrial Revolution, workers were underrated and treated horribly. Our society has come a long way since then, but our value system is still skewed. The work and worker are often valued based on their income, not how important their work is. The last few months (pandemic changes) have made the world reassess what is important. Multi-million dollar athletes are sitting at home, while meat packers and trash collectors go to work every day. God has His own currency; He values work differently than we do. The stay-at-home mom doesn't receive a paycheck, but her job has great importance before God. God sees what we do, and even the most menial task done for His glory is precious in His sight.

Labor Day was created to honor the workers that were often overlooked. During the Industrial Revolution, workers were underrated and treated horribly. In the 1880s some states set aside a day to honor the social and economic achievement of American workers. Congress made it a national day of remembrance in 1894.

Our society has come a long way since then, but our value system is still skewed. The work and worker are often valued based on their income, not how important their work is. The last few months have made us reassess which jobs to praise. Plumbers and truck drivers did not stop working, while multi-million dollar athletes were sitting at home. Meat packers and trash collectors go to work every day, while movies productions have been put on hiatus. God has His own currency; He values work differently than we do. The stay-at-home mom doesn't receive a paycheck, but her job has great importance before God. God sees what you do, and even the humblest task done for His glory is precious in His sight. After all, what was the most humble, demeaning, and yet important work done in the history of the world? We describe the death of Jesus as his 'work' on the cross. He sweated. He bled. He is under-appreciated. Here's the good news: "IT. IS. FINISHED." He paid for our sins! You and I have much to do to subdue this earth and spread the good news, but remember that His Son has finished the greatest work

to rescue and cleanse us from our sin. Let that fuel you in your work. Rejoice and rest in His finished work. We're going to sing now a prayer, asking God to strengthen us in our work and help us to rest in Him. (Justin Howe)

WORK AS A GIFT

Have someone (or multiples) in the church give a personal testimony of gratitude for their job—the opportunities it creates, the gifts it utilizes, and the ways it has given glory to God. Communicate that work is a gift from God, a stewardship and a joy.

YOUR WORK MATTERS TO GOD

The work that you do - no matter what it is - is valuable to God. When you use your gifts to serve Him and do your work as unto the Lord, it matters! Tim can use his work at Amazon as a personal example. We see a biblical example in the workers who helped make the furnishings, etc. for the tabernacle. Exodus 35 talks about some of the people to whom God gave special skills and wisdom, such as weaving, working in metal, cutting stones, etc. These were not “spiritual gifts,” but they were gifts that God gave to be used for Him. We worship God Who gave us the abilities we have, and we worship Him by using those abilities! There is joy in participating in God's world and contributing to His work force.