

Meaningful Work

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This weekend marks the “unofficial” end to summer – Labor Day weekend. One last weekend to get away on a short family trip, hit the pool, or perhaps enjoy a picnic or backyard barbeque. While this holiday originated with the labor movement as a celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers, I think it’s a good time to reflect on the idea of work and what it means to the people of God.



I must confess that for most of my life, I mistakenly believed that “work” was just a result of the fall in Genesis 3. Somehow I had overlooked the fact that in Genesis 2:15 we learn that “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” This was pre-fall, before sin had entered the picture! In the perfect world that God created, humankind had meaningful and fulfilling work! It’s only as a result of sin that we find the curse in Genesis 3:17-19 – that our work will be frustrated, filled with toil, aggravation and struggle because of how sin has warped God’s beautiful creation. All of us know too well that there are days when our work is difficult, toilsome or less than fulfilling, but that wasn’t God original design.



In his kindness and grace, God designed human beings with the capacity to do meaningful work and that’s a good thing! I’m grateful for the good work that God allows me to do in my life. I’m grateful for parents who modeled good work and created opportunities for me to experience meaningful work. My father bought a 50 acre hobby farm allegedly to keep his sons out of trouble. There is some debate as to whether or not he was successful in that aim, but he was successful in giving ample opportunities to learn about work and its value.

So I’m grateful for the work the Lord has given me to do and the many benefits that result from that work. I’m also grateful for the work the Lord has given others to do as well. For the teachers who faithfully teach and shape young minds, for the mechanics and tradesmen who do the work that I cannot do (without incurring extra expenses for further repairs or medical treatments), for the farmers who faithfully sow and reap so that others are fed from their labors, and the many others whose work blesses and benefits my life and well-being.

So whatever your plans may be for this holiday weekend, I certainly hope you take a few moments to reflect upon the work the Lord has given you to do. Let’s give thanks to our Father who created us to engage in meaningful work and gives us the grace to serve him and one another through our work. Have a great weekend.



Christ’s Peace,

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