The Christian Labor Union

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (TEXT: v. 58)

On this Labor Day weekend we recognize "working people."

The Bible emphasizes the importance of labor (Ex. 20:9). While we are not saved BY WORKS, we are saved UNTO GOOD WORKS (Eph. 2:8-10).

I love my job. Love and labor are connected—Our work for the Lord is a — A labor that springs from our love for Him (1 Thess.

1:3). Paul said, "

, (Heb. 6:10).

Jesus asked Peter, ? Peter answered,

. Then Jesus said,

(John 21:16). Peter's love for Jesus was to be manifest in working for the Lord.

⇒ A L = An organization of workers who have united together to work to achieve common goals — Jesus invites us to be join Him in labor. We are labourers together with God (1 Cor. 3:9).

A man named Peter McGuire was instrumental in organizing labor in America. He and laborers in other cities planned a holiday for workers on the first Monday in September—halfway between Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

On September 5, 1882 the first Labor Day parade was held in New York City. 20,000 workers marched in a parade up Broadway. They carried banners that read "LABOR CREATES ALL WEALTH," and "EIGHT HOURS FOR WORK, EIGHT HOURS FOR REST, EIGHT HOURS FOR RECREATION!"

In 1894, Congress voted it a federal holiday.

Peter McGuire was not the first to organize a union of laborers! In Acts 19:24-25 we read of a man named Demetrius who formed

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So organized labor had it's roots in making idols! Our text (1 Cor. 15:58) indicates L Paul was writing about the resurrection and the rapture (vs. 51-55). (v. 15). In view of the imminent rapture, we are exhorted to keep on working for the Lord (cf. John 9:4). Our ASSOCIATES in labor. I. A. Our **BRE HREN** speaks of family. 1. We work together. We do not labor alone. 2. This is a " ." We are striving for the same goal (see 1 Corinthians 3:5-9). OKE (Mt. 11:28-30). 3. Being a carpenter, Jesus knew about yokes. a) A tool of SERVICE A yoke is a wooden beam used to harness a pair of oxen or other animals to enable them to work in pairs. • When you get saved, you are called to be harnessed to Him! • He is not calling us to work alone—He is calling us to work with Him! b) A tool of SUBMISSION. Yokes make it possible to guide and govern oxen. You cannot be yoked to Jesus and go your own way. You have to lower your head to get into a yoke. You have to YIELD to the YOKE! B. Our **BO** — ... We must remember WHO we are working for. You are NOT working for the pastor!

Colossians 3:23-24—

to the Lord.

: for ye serve the Lord

Christ.

C. Our **B** INE — i.e. in the cause of the Lord. Doing what God wants done (Col. 1:28-29— , ; ;

- 1. The business is preaching Christ
- 2. The business is discipling converts

II. The ASPECTS of our labor.

A. EAD —

- 1. Faithful; dependable; heart fixed; unwavering; determined.
- 2. "The secret of success is to start from scratch and keep on scratching."

One day Dr. Jack Hyles stopped to watch a group of boys playing baseball game. He called to the boy in right field, "What's the score?" The boy answered, "We're trailing 21 to nothing!"

"Well," Hyles said, "you might as well give up."

"Why should we give up, mister? We haven't been up to at bat yet!"

Amen! That's the winning spirit.

B. **OLID** — Firm (!)

- 1. Unshaken by outward circumstances. Not turned aside.
 - ➡ Bob Jones Sr—"The test of your character is what will it take to stop you."
- 2. Nothing could stop Paul— ...
 - Persecution could not move Paul (2 Cor. 11:24-27).
 - Problems could not move Paul (2 Cor. 12:7-9).
 - People could not move Paul (Phil. 1:15-18).

C. RGING —

- 1. Increasing; exceeding a fixed amount; excelling; overflowing.
- 2. Going beyond the call of duty (2nd mile). Not satisfied with being average. I don't want to be a nominal Christian.

III. The ASSURANCE for our labor— ...

- You can have CONFIDENCE (... ...") that anything you do for the Lord is worthwhile and it matters!.
- → —not a "waste of time"—not an "exercise in futility."
- A. It is not in vain because we **ER E** (cf. in vs. 14, 17). We are not working for some dead guy or idol.

RFCYCI FD

- 1. This will keep you from getting discouraged.
- 2. This will keep you from quitting.
 - Your labor in the is not in vain in the Lord.
 - Your labor the church is not in vain in the Lord.
 - Your labor preparing and your S.S. class or Jr. Church is not in vain.

ministry is not in vain in the Lord.

ministry (sound / video) is not in

is not in vain in the Lord.

is not in vain in the Lord.

- Your labor in the
- Your labor in the vain in the Lord.
- Your labor in the
- Your labor as a
- Your labor in our **L G** is not in vain in the Lord.

or

• Your labor in the **G.R.O.** . ministry or is not in vain in the Lord.

While I was on staff at Open Door Baptist, we had a guy named Tom who spent his lunch hours passing out tracts at Pike Place Market in Seattle. After several years, Tom got discouraged and quit.

One day as he passed through the Pike Place Market he saw a man passing out tracts at the same spot where he used to pass out tracts. He approached the man and said, "I think you are wasting your time."

The man answered, "I don't think so. I got saved through a tract that a guy gave me at this very spot about a year ago.

Tom said, "I'm the one who gave you that tract. I quit passing out tracts because I didn't think it did any good. Now, by the grace of God, I shall start again."

MMA ION: Are you a member of God's Labor Union? Get in the YOKE!

The benefits are out-of-this world—And God's laborers never need to go on strike!

Your comments are welcomed. Please CLICK HERE.