

OUR LABOR FOR THE LORD

(John 4:31-38)

Introduction:

1. Tomorrow our country celebrates Labor Day, a day of rest to commemorate the American labor movement and the contributions of the American worker to the prosperity of America and the world-Wikipedia.
2. Just as our physical kingdom celebrates the work of its people, so too our spiritual kingdom.
3. Let us this morning consider the work of the kingdom by looking into the work of our Lord, the work of His people, and finally face some questions from our Lord.

Discussion:

- I. The Work of our Lord.
 - A. Paying the price for sin.
 1. The main purpose of our Savior was to be the propitiation for the sin of mankind (Gen. 3:15; 12:3; 22:18; Mark 1:1-5; John 11:49-53; Luke 9:21, 22; John 19:30; Rev. 13:8; et al).
 2. He is our Savior not just our Lord (1 John 2:2; 1 Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20).
 - B. Establishing His Kingdom (Is. 2; Dan. 2, and Joel 2 all fulfilled in Acts 2).
 - C. Teaching us about God and who His people are to be.
 1. Jesus showed us God as He could never before be seen, in the flesh (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; John 14:9).
 2. Jesus also showed us how God's people must live (John 4:34; 5:19, 30, 36; 6:57; 7:16; 8:29, 42; 9:4; 10:17; et al).
 - D. Summarized so perfectly in Titus 2:11-14.
- II. The Work of the Lord's People.
 - A. Partaking of the grace of God and remaining unspotted from the world (John 6:29).
 1. Jesus is the grace of God offered to all who will receive it (John 1:12; Rom. 5:1, 2; Mark 16:16).
 2. Jesus explained that just as baptism is the obedience/submission that fills faith full, so too repentance (Luke 13:3, 5) and confession (Matt. 10:32) are vital aspects of our faith.
 - B. Maintaining the Lord's Kingdom.
 1. The procedures established by our Lord determine who is a citizen and who is not (Acts 2:47; Col. 1:13; 1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Thess. 3:6).
 2. The way we are to worship God as an assembly has been revealed once for all (1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:15; Jude 3).
 3. The assembling of ourselves together in order to build one another up (Heb. 10:24, 25; Eph. 4:11-16).
 - C. Reaching out to those outside the Lord's Kingdom so that the will of God might be fulfilled (John 9:5; Matt. 5:14-16).
 1. It begins with being salt and light.
 2. It continues in being able to teach all the how and why of our being salt and light so that they too can be salt and light (1 Pet. 3:15; 1 Thess. 4:1-12).
- III. The Questions of our Lord.
 - A. Are you Mine? Will you work? Do you understand that you cannot be Mine if you are not working for Me?
 - B. Verses like 2 Cor. 13:5 and 1 John 5:13 tell us that we all can know exactly where our citizenship is, and whether we are faithful citizens.

Conclusion:

1. A day off tomorrow for many in our physical kingdom, but there is no day off in the spiritual kingdom while the world exists. But, oh my brethren, the rest/reward laid up for the workers in the Lord's kingdom. Words cannot do justice.
2. I will mention just a few: no tears, no darkness, no evil things, no lies; only light, glory, honor in the very presence of our God and Savior; forever.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “OUR LABOR FOR THE LORD”

1. Follow the light!! John 1:1-13 + John 9:4, 5 + Matt. 5:13-16 + 2 Cor. 4:6 + Eph. 5:1-17.
2. Thus our work is three fold:
 1. Become light.
 2. Help the brethren become brighter lights as we are helped to become brighter as well (the one another principle, especially Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16).
 3. Shining in the world that others may see the light of God and decide to become light (then the cycle continues to step 2 to step 3 and so on).
3. The main work of the church is to be Christ-like. “If the church is Christ-centered, then we invite those outside not to church but to Christ”-Jesse Nelsen.
4. Gal. 2:20, the moon, and us.