

# Happy Labor Day!

by Karen Maio

This Labor Day weekend, Americans will be savoring every last drop of summer with backyard barbecues, trips to the beach, and hopefully, some time spent in the sun. Hats and sun visors off to the hard work and achievements of the labor movement which have made our country strong and prosperous!



Many grumble about their jobs, but labor was part of God's plan - Adam and Eve were to care for the garden and the animals. It was only after the fall into sin that labor became, well, labor, that is hard work. *Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life* Genesis 3:17b. Through work, God provides for us financially. He expects us to do our work faithfully and diligently, serving our employer as if doing it for the Lord himself. *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* 1 Corinthians 10:31

Some aspects of our work may be frustrating and leave us questioning why we even bother: long hours, inconsiderate boss, "office politics", being let go after years of loyal service, etc., but sadly, these are part of living in a sinful world. There is one job opening with a terrific boss: doing the Lord's work, sharing the Gospel of Christ, the good news that Jesus has forgiven us all of our sins and that by grace through faith in him, we will have everlasting life. Thinking that our shared Gospel message might be the means the Holy Spirit uses to work saving faith in somebody's heart makes it so very worthwhile! *Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain* 1 Corinthians 15:58. The salary might not be anything to speak of, but the fringe benefits are out of this world!

*...Eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their toil - this is the gift of God* Ecclesiastes 3:13

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**Scripture References:** Proverbs 21:21; 1 Corinthians 16:10; Galatians 6:9; 2 Peter 3:14

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