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# Reflection

## ARE YOU WEARY OF YOUR WORK?

BY

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Each year, on the first Monday of September, we celebrate Labor Day to recognize the contributions of the American workers to the social and economic prosperity of our nation. In my view, nowhere in the world is the dignity of labor affirmed and upheld as it is in America. Aristotle regarded some humans as low men consigned to a life of servitude. In the Hindu caste system, the *Sudras* were relegated to do menial jobs, who could never aspire to do the work of those belonging to the higher castes. Only in Christ, the founder of Christianity, do we find the dignity of people and their work restored to their rightful place.

Paradoxically, Labor Day is also a vivid reminder that most workers around the world are unhappy with their jobs, since they hate to return to work after a long holiday weekend. It is because in this fallen world our work has come under the curse of sin so that we can never hope to find ultimate fulfillment or satisfaction in our work, however noble they may be. The Bible says, "All the labor of man *is* for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied" (Eccl. 6:7, NKJV). The only way we can find true meaning and purpose in our work is when we do it as an act of worship and a means to display the glory and supremacy of God. The apostle Paul wrote, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). The dignity of our labor is fully restored and our work becomes a "calling" when we engage in our vocation as redeemed people of God to glorify Him. Unless we seek the glory of God as the supreme good in our work, we must not hope to find any lasting satisfaction in our work.

Alexander Maclaren, the great Scottish preacher, put it well: "The secret of satisfied repose is to set our affections thoroughly on God. Then our wearied hearts, like Noah's dove returning to its rest, will fold their wings and nestle fast by the throne of God." I pray that on this Labor Day you will choose God in Christ for your supreme good in your work. If you do, you will see your work as a calling from God to serve others for the glory of God.

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