



Newsletter

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- Up Words # 44

LABOR DAY



Next Monday we celebrate Labor Day. It is the unofficial end of summer. For those in high society it is the last day of the year when one can fashionably wear white. For most of us it is a day for special sales, family gatherings and picnics. For football fans the NFL season opener begins on the Thursday after Labor Day.

Originally proposed in 1882 the holiday was federally mandated in 1894 when President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. It is the working man's holiday and though originally organized and supported by national labor unions, now both union and non-union employees enjoy a day off.

When thinking about Labor Day my thoughts went back to a much earlier foundation for this holiday. I would suggest it began by God's decree just after the fall of Adam and Eve. We note that originally God created man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it. (Genesis 2:15). The Hebrew language for man's assignment indicates that he tilled the garden, pruned it, kept it in tact and protected it. Though Adam and Eve's duty was to care for the garden, it seems that the garden soil and plants cooperated so that the work was more or less effortless. In fact their task was probably enjoyable, perhaps like caring for greenery planted in peat moss; easy to cultivate and care for.

God's official start to Labor Day is found in Genesis 3:16-19. There we read, "To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; ... Then to Adam He said, Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; by the sweat of your face you will eat bread"

Note that God's Labor Day has two elements. For the women childbirth would be painful. That's why we call it "labor!" And for the man Labor Day meant that the ground would no longer cooperate with his tilling efforts, weeds, hard work and sweat would be required in order to receive food from the ground.

Labor Day is the direct result of sin. Though we don't wish to celebrate sin it would do us well to remember the sad results of disobedience to God.

Looking Up,
Pastor Chuck Circle