



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

51 North Franklin Road • Indianapolis, IN 46219 • 317.897.1298

NEWSLETTER

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“LABOR DAZE”



WE PILLOW OUR WEARY HEADS AND SOMETIMES SIGH “IS IT WORTH IT?” IS IT WORTH THE EFFORT TO SERVE? AREN’T THEY EXPECTING TOO MUCH FROM ME AT THE CHURCH? WHEN QUESTIONS LIKE THESE ABOUND WE’RE DEFINITELY SUFFERING FROM A COMMON BUT OFT IGNORED MALADY CALLED “LABOR DAZE.”

THE BIBLE PROVIDES AMPLE EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHOSE WORK WAS UNSATISFYING OR OVERWHELMING. THE WISEST AND RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD CONCLUDED “THEN I LOOKED ON ALL THE WORKS THAT MY HANDS HAD WROUGHT, AND ON THE LABOR THAT I HAD LABORED TO DO: AND, BEHOLD, ALL WAS VANITY AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT, AND *THERE WAS NO PROFIT UNDER THE SUN.*”(ECCLESIASTES 2:11) HAGGAI POINTS OUT THE FUTILITY OF THE DISOBEDIENT. “YE HAVE SOWN MUCH, AND BRING IN LITTLE; YE EAT, BUT YE HAVE NOT ENOUGH; YE DRINK, BUT YE ARE NOT FILLED WITH DRINK; YE CLOTHE YOU, BUT THERE IS NONE WARM; AND HE THAT EARNETH WAGES EARNETH WAGES *TO PUT IT INTO A BAG WITH HOLES.* (HAGGAI 1:6)

OF COURSE WE DARE NOT FORGET THE FAMOUS ACCOUNT OF MARY AND MARTHA IN LUKE 10:38-43. JESUS CAUTIONED THIS LABOR-DAZED LADY, “MARTHA, MARTHA, THOU ART CAREFUL AND TROUBLED ABOUT MANY THINGS: BUT ONE THING IS NEEDFUL: AND MARY HATH CHOSEN THAT GOOD PART, WHICH SHALL NOT BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HER.” (VERSES 41-42). WE COULD ADD TO THESE SOME DISAPPOINTED DISCIPLES AND FORMER FISHERMAN WHO WORKED ALL NIGHT AND CAUGHT NOTHING. (SEE JOHN 21:3).

SO HOW CAN THE LABOR-DAZED BE ENCOURAGED?

FIRST WE MUST KEEP GOING. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 STATES, “THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BROTHERS, BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT YOUR TOIL IS NOT *IN VAIN* IN THE LORD. THE SECRET TO PAUL’S SUCCESS IS STATED IN COLOSSIANS 1:29 “FOR THIS PURPOSE ALSO I LABOR, STRIVING ACCORDING TO HIS POWER, WHICH MIGHTILY WORKS WITHIN ME.” PAUL FIXED HIS HOPE ON THE LIVING GOD AND LABORED AND STROVE ACCORDINGLY (SEE 1 TIMOTHY 4:10). AND FINALLY, THERE IS NO SHAME IN ANTICIPATING A REWARD FOR WHAT WE’RE DOING. “NOW HE THAT PLANTETH AND HE THAT WATERETH ARE ONE: AND EVERY MAN SHALL RECEIVE HIS OWN REWARD ACCORDING TO HIS OWN LABOR. FOR WE ARE LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD ...” (1 CORINTHIANS 3:8-9A).

“HOLDING FAST THE WORD OF LIFE, SO THAT IN THE DAY OF CHRIST I WILL HAVE REASON TO GLORY BECAUSE I DID NOT RUN IN VAIN NOR TOIL IN VAIN.” (PHILIPPIANS 2:16).

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE