

CHRIST CHURCH OF PRAYER – July 30, 2017

Labor of Love

Message Focus: Let love prompt your labor
(Let God *stimulate, inspire and motivate* your work and your calling)

Labor: to work, toil, struggle, persevere, strive, endure

Colossians 3:23-25 (NIV)

²³ **Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord**, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving.** ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Philippians 2:12-16(NIV)

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. ¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that **I did not run or labor in vain.**

1 Timothy 4 (NIV)

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. ³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. ⁶ If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷ Have

nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, **train yourself to be godly.** ⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰ **That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God**, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. ¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NIV)

² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

3 KEYS TO LIFE (1 Corinthians 13:13)

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Notes:

GOD LOVES SEEING YOU IN CHURCH
JOIN US WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AND NEXT SUNDAY
AND INVITE A FRIEND
**Go to www.christchurchofprayer.org for news, info
and sermon audio clips and notes**