

A Day Honoring Work

The Labor Day weekend lies straight ahead, culminating with the observance of the holiday on Monday. Please keep safety as a paramount consideration during this time of travel and festivities.

Labor Day was first observed on September 5, 1882, in New York City. Approximately 10,000 workers organized a parade sponsored by the Knights of Labor. The idea of a holiday to honor workers and give them a day of rest quickly spread, and in 1894 Congress passed a bill making Labor Day a national holiday. While most countries honor workers on May Day, Labor Day is celebrated on the first Monday in September in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

The significance of Labor Day has changed over the years. Many people now consider it a time to recognize the end of summer and enjoy family gatherings. Some also attend Labor Day parades or political rallies.

God took a day of rest after His six days of creating, not because He was tired but because His work was finished. He commanded the Israelites to observe the Sabbath as a day of rest and a sign of His covenant with them. When Jesus ascended to heaven after His resurrection, He sat down at God's right hand to show that His work of redemption was finished. Now, believers can rest from the work of trying to earn our salvation.

As long as we are on earth, however, God has appointed work for each of us to do. In the spiritual realm, our work is to bring new people into His Kingdom and build up the body of Christ. For those of us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we have another assignment. God has called us to care for His frail, infirm, elderly children, our residents. And He equipped us, with the unique talents He gave us, to accomplish that task.

God has His own special Labor Day planned for the future to honor His workers and give them eternal rest. Hebrews 4:1-11 offers us that promise.

That coming celebration provides great hope for today.

--Beecher Hunter