

A Noble Pursuit

The concept of work – both its theory and practice – was introduced to me by my father on a farm outside of Cookeville, Tenn., once a land of clear, fish-filled ponds, cool springs and beautiful woodlands, now sliced by Interstate 40 on its way between Knoxville and Nashville. Some of my earliest memories contain visions of the hard labor he expended around that home place to produce a living for his young family.

There was always something to do for every member of the family – even for a boy of 3, 4 and 5 years of age. That included helping plant tomatoes or harvest potatoes or picking strawberries from their plants under the hot, late-spring sun. One of my chores, at such a tender age, was to take a couple of water pails, one for each hand, and walk to the spring to bring fresh drinking water to the house. That was in the days, of course, before city water had been extended into that rural area. Whether the transport was made in the early morning hours, while the sun was peeping over the horizon and mockingbirds were serenading its arrival or in the eerie shadows of nighttime with a golden harvest moon hanging overhead, my assignment was always enjoyable. Besides, I felt this task was important, and it was.



Work, my father taught me by example and verbal instruction, is a noble pursuit. On the other hand, his estimation of someone who would not work, even though he was able, was low. He didn't think much of a person who was a slacker or lazy. Even from the earliest age, this was a perception I wanted to avoid. As I grew, so did my appreciation for those who worked diligently at their careers, just as I admired my father's work ethic.

We live in a world with many jobs, and we are a people of an abundance of abilities. God created each of us to be unique, and He endowed us with peculiar skills. In doing so, He expects us to develop and use those talents to reach the full potential that He intended.

I am convinced that the men and women who choose health care for their professions are engaged in the noblest work of all – dedicating themselves to the well-being of God's children, our residents. What can please Him more?

On this weekend, when labor is touted and saluted, be secure in the knowledge that God honors the workman who is worthy of his hire.

And be thankful for the mission in which we are all engaged in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. It brings great personal rewards.

– Beecher Hunter