

New Testament Teaching on Labor

Ephesians 4:22-32



✓1. **Sinners must labor for the food that does not perish.** “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you” (*John 6:27*). The Lord then spoke of food from above—“bread from heaven,” even “the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever and the bread that I will give is My flesh which I will give for the life of the world” (*John 6:32,51*).

✓2. **Believers should always labor and make it their ambition to please God:** “Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of [lit. *well-pleasing to*] Him” (*2 Cor. 5:9*).

✓3. **There is a wonderful balance between my laboring and God’s mighty working in me:** “Whereunto I also labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily” (*Col. 1:29*).

✓4. **Wholesome, diligent labor provides for our own needs and also for the needs of others:** “Let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth” (*Eph. 4:28*).

✓5. **God knows our labor and will reward us accordingly:** “I know thy works and thy labor....every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor” (*Rev. 2:2; 1 Cor. 3:8*).

✓6. **The labor that pleases God is motivated by a love for God and for others:** “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love....For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (*1 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 6:10*).

✓7. **Our labor is not in vain in the Lord:** “Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (*1 Cor. 15:58*).

✓8. **We need to honor our spiritual leaders who labor in the Word:** “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine....And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake” (*1 Thess. 5:12-13*).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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