



# God's Measure of a Labourer

February 8, 2026

Pastor Scott McClain

Exodus 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:3

While we generally tend to think of work and labor interchangeably, (and they are closely related) the Bible makes distinctions between the two as seen in the above verses. Interestingly, the Lord Jesus Christ tells us to pray for God the Father to send "labourers" into his harvest as opposed to "\_\_\_\_\_ " - Matthew 9:37-38.

## Work

- *Purposeful activity aimed at producing, accomplishing, or creating something.*
- It emphasizes purpose and outcome.

## Labor

- *Strenuous physical or mental effort, often toilsome, burdensome, or compulsory.*
- Emphasizes effort, hardship, strain, or toil

"worker(s)" - 28 times in the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_ of those are in a negative context.

"labourer(s)" - 11 times in the Bible and all in the NT. \_\_\_\_\_ of those are in a negative context.

**KEY difference:** Work focuses on purpose and result; labor focuses on effort and burden.

## Labor Measures Motivation

### 1 Thess. 2:1-9

- The work: we are stewards of the gospel - 2:4.
- Am I serving the Lord or myself? - 2:5-6.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the motivator! Without it, you are left with only works - 2:8; Rom. 9:3; 2 Cor. 12:15.
  - That's why they were able to labor with great intensity - 2:9.

## Labor Measures Faithfulness

- NOTHING will stop you from carrying out the work of the Lord - Neh. 4.
- Labor is not judged by \_\_\_\_\_, but by faithfulness - Ruth 2:7, 12.
  - ...to whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required - Luke 12:48.

## Labor Measures \_\_\_\_\_

- The sluggard - Pro. 6:6-11.
- The hireling - John 10:12-13.

- King Joash - 2 Chron. 24.
  - God spared his life from his wicked grandmother Athaliah who killed all the heirs to her son Ahaziah's throne as he was hid in the temple by the priest Jehoiada and his wife - 2 Chron 22:10-12.
  - He repairs God's house, oversees the work, and takes up an offering from the people to fund the work who gave cheerfully - 24:4-11.
  - Jehoiada the priest dies and things change instantly - 24:15-16.
  - Joash is the king of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Application**

- Are you a worker or a laborer?
- Are you willing to labor for the Lord no matter what?
- What will you hear at the judgment seat?

It's not about just finishing the \_\_\_\_\_, but how well you \_\_\_\_\_ it!