

Laymen and Christ's Labor

Tomorrow brings the nation-wide celebration of a day designed to honor those who labor with hands and minds to create the material wealth of America. It is right that honor be paid on Labor Day to these to whom so much is due.

But the spiritual wealth of America, more important than its material worth, is also the result of labor. America cannot grow and prosper if spiritually bankrupt and morally unemployed. For the churchman, then, Labor Day has a special significance because the churchman must regard his toil, his duties, as dedicated to God. Unless he labors in God's name, with a sense of calling to the service of Christ in whatever task he does, he labors for empty goals and no worthy purpose. Labor Day is a time of rededication to the labor of Christ, and should be a day of thanksgiving that God has given men tasks to do and the strength with which to do them.

This Labor Day of 1957 has a special significance to the Presbyterian laymen—thousands of them—who are making plans to gather in Miami next month. There the leaders in Christ's labor will be brought face to face with this concept for labor, through the discussions of interest groups on the subject "All the Way for Christ—Through Vocations." These groups will be led by great Christian laymen who have found fulfillment in dedicating to God the work of hands and mind. This Labor Day, and the thoughts it brings can help prepare Presbyterian laymen in the South to reap much from these vital discussions in Miami.

Let us, therefore, do honor to the man who labors, but let us be certain that that for which he labors is of God, and for God, truly the labor of Christ among men.

We are
labourers
together
with God

—I Corinthians 3:9

"Excuse Me, Lord!"

In my "Dream Church" everybody is a "yes" Christian. No reservations; no evasions; no excuse-making, but a spirit of readiness and willingness to serve Christ that is sincere and enthusiastic. The Christian life may be lived gloriously or it may be lived shabbily. Dedication makes the difference! Not many ever attained spiritual stature by saying "no" to God. He has a priority which no true Christian can deny. Many of our excuses offered to Him are flimsy, over-worked, selfish. If we are too busy with our own pursuits, we are busier than God ever intended. He has first claim on our time, our energies, our possessions, our loyalties. It's not a case of "Excuse me, Lord," but "USE me, Lord!" Christ will never accept second-place in our lives. Why should He?

—Sidney Austin Gates

THE GENERAL COUNCIL,
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS



Presbyterian Church

September 1, 1957

AIMWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ridgeway, South Carolina

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 1, 1957

"Be Anxious for nothing, but in all things,
by prayer and supplication, let your re-
quests be made known unto God."

PRELUDE Let us bow in reverence at the sound of
CALL TO WORSHIP quiet and sweet music.
DOXOLOGY "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"
INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
INTERLUDE
RESPONSIVE READING SELECTION 24
HYMN 342 "God Of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand"
SCRIPTURE READING
ORGAN MEDITATION
MORNING PRAYER
HYMN 257 "O For A Heart To Praise My God"
ANNOUNCEMENTS
OFFERTORY Tithes and Offerings
MEMORY HYMN "Jesus, Thou Joy Of Loving Hearts" 67
SERMON by the pastor
PRAYER
HYMN 177 "I Am Coming To The Cross"
INVITATION
BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

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WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The Women of the Church will meet on Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. S. A. Taylor. The time is 8 O'clock P. M. Everyone is urged to be present for this September meeting.

IN LOVING MEMORY

HUGH BLAIR AIKEN BELOVED FRIEND OF AIMWELL

"Be Instant in season, out of season,
reprove, rebuke, exhort with long suffering"

"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow after them."

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THE BOARD OF DEACONS TO MEET

The Diaconate will meet on Tuesday evening at 8 O'clock P. M. at the Home of Mr. R. D. Arndt. All deacons are asked to be present for this very important meeting.

THE SESSION OF AIMWELL TO MEET

The Session of Aimwell Church will meet on Friday evening for their regular stated meeting in September. The time is 8 O'clock P.M. and the place is the Pastor's Study. Please bring your portfolio to this meeting.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

There will be a meeting of the Youth Fellowship tonight at 7 O'clock P.M. Everyone is urged to be on hand for a planning session. Refreshments will be served.

CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS NEXT WEEK

Announcement will be made in the mid-week bulletin concerning the schedule for Choir practices beginning after next Sunday. This will give all the choir members time to get started with their school work and will give the pastor time to get unpacked!!