

Theme: Our adult years are full of hard labor as we strive to love and serve God, our families, and others as we harvest all that has been sown into us in our earlier years.

I. Intro – Cheapkids.net & Review

- A. Cheapkids.net sketch from SNL
- B. Seasons of life series
- C. Agricultural metaphor
- D. Previous weeks – till, plant, growth
- E. This week – harvest work

II. Summer & Early Fall – Adults

- A. 20's – early 60's (1 Corinthians 13:11)
 - 1. Fully grown, self-sufficient adults
 - 2. Full time working phase of life
- B. The season of labor after early training & growth
 - 1. Parents put lot of time & effort to get to this point
 - 2. Should have basic maturity, reason, self-control
 - 3. This is a time of hard work! (1 Thess 2:7-12)
 - 4. All prior input is now used and reaps benefits

III. The Focus of Our Labor

- A. We labor to love and serve God (Matt 22:36-38)
 - 1. This is the most important facet of life
 - 2. God must be our first priority
- B. We labor to love and serve our families (1 Tim 5:4,8; Mt 15:4-6)
 - 1. Our family comes before others (1 Tim 5:4, 8)
 - 2. Service to God does not destroy families (Mt 15:4-6)
 - 3. This will require sacrifice – cheapkids.net skit
- C. We labor to love and serve others (Mt 22:36-40)
 - 1. We are called to pour our lives out for others
 - 2. Love/service for God inseparable from love/service of others
- D. We are called to serve others through our jobs (vocation)
 - 1. Our work is important to God! (Gen 1:28; 2:15)
 - 2. Our work is service to God (Col 3:23-24)
 - 3. Can work and still keep God, family first (Prov 31:10-18)
 - 4. But this will require long, hard work (Prov 31:15, 17, 18)

IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you see the hard labor of this season?
 - 1. These are long, hot days of seemingly non-stop work
 - 2. Culture – kids forever – Seinfeld, Friends

3. Culture giving us unrealistic expectations? (Tummy tuck commercial)
4. Is culture seducing us to complain about this labor?
5. Is culture getting us to do unimportant things?

B. How are our priorities during this busy time?

1. Stress caused by conflicting priorities
2. Do we keep God first – or make excuses?
3. Do we honor God by serving family next?
4. Do we then serve other people?
5. Do we labor hard at our jobs?

Summer and Early Fall: Adults

1 Corinthians 13:11

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? ?

Aaronic

7 but we were gentle among you, **like a mother caring for her little children.**
8 We loved you so much that we were **delighted to share with you** not only the gospel of God **but our lives as well**, because you had become so dear to us. **9 Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone** while we preached the gospel of God to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. 11 **For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God,** who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment."
Matthew 22:36-38

4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.... 8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
1 Timothy 5:4, 8

4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 5 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.
Matthew 15:4-6

36 "Teacher, **which is the greatest commandment in the Law?**" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 **And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'** 40 **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**"
Matthew 22:36-40

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and **subdue it. Rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
Genesis 1:28

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden **to work it and take care of it.** Genesis 2:15

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**
Colossians 3:23-24

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. 14 She is like the **merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.** 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. 16 **She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.** 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. 18 **She sees that her trading is profitable,** and her lamp does not go out at night.
Proverbs 31:10-18

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