

## Today's Message Outline: "Labor...or Labor of Love?"

*"For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." – Romans 7:15 (ESV)*

*"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." - Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)*

*"All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the LORD, all the work to be done according to the plan."<sup>20</sup> Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.<sup>21</sup> And behold the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and with you in all the work will be every willing man who has skill for any kind of service; also the officers and all the people will be wholly at your command." - 1 Chronicles 28:19 (ESV)*

**Allow discipline to be your expression of passion!**

**Meek = "Controlled Strength!"**

**Allow detail to be the expression of your vision!**

*"...Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts,<sup>5</sup> according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not." – Haggai 2:4-5 (ESV)*

*"<sup>12</sup> But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy,<sup>13</sup> so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away." – Ezra 3:12-13 (ESV)*

*"<sup>9</sup> The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts." – Haggai 2:9 (ESV)*

**Allow serving others and reflecting Christ to become a labor of love.**

## Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Tell us about a 'foolish' or 'maverick' thing you did as a child.
2. Describe your current place of "work" ... the good and the bad.
3. In what areas of your life are you quite 1) disciplined and 2) detailed?  
In what areas are you less 1) disciplined and 2) detailed?
4. Are you reflecting Christ at 'work?' How can you improve?

## MY OWN WORST ENEMY SERIES

### A Prayer For ... Work

Father, your ways and your thoughts are higher than my ways and my thoughts. Renew my mind.

Remind me that I am your beloved child. I confess that I often see my work as a way to prove my worth and value as a person. Help me to see that my work is an opportunity to worship you, draw nearer to you, and to be increasingly transformed into your likeness. My work is a gift that you have given to me so that I may demonstrate my faith in you while being surrounded by people who do not know you.

Father, forgive me for the ways that I have lost focus regarding your role and place in my work. Lord, empower me to see my work as a way to develop my relationship with you and to demonstrate you to people who do not know you. May your light shine into the darkness through the work you have given to me to accomplish today.

*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and your plans will succeed."  
(Proverbs 16:3, NIV)*