



From BISHOP'S DESK

My Beloveds,

At its core, Labor Day is a day to recognize and celebrate the dignity, contributions, and rights of working people. Unofficially, it is also viewed as the end of summer. Vacations are over and everyone is back at school.

On this Labor Day, we should thank God for the strength and opportunity He gives us to work. Each person is unique. Not everyone has the same abilities, gifts, talents, opportunities or circumstances. Some of us are building our careers, raising our families, serving in ministry or in another capacity, some are retired, and others are seeking employment. Whatever season we find ourselves in, we can ask God to help us to be faithful to everything He has entrusted and gifted to us.

Today, let us celebrate more than work itself. Let us celebrate the God who gives us strength, gifts, opportunities, and purpose. Remember what the Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3:23-24, "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." So, whatever God has placed before you, do it wholeheartedly. Do it with integrity. Do it with gratitude. Do it with excellence.

Happy Labor Day, and may God bless the work of your hands and your heart.

Bishop Clifford M. Johnson Jr.

