

LABOR DAY

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 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



A few years ago, I attended a ten-year Heidelberg Reunion. As people caught up with one another regarding marriages, babies, and careers, someone brought up a couple we all knew who decided to leave their successful jobs, empty their savings, all to live in Italy for six-months enjoying an extended vacation while they were still young and relatively “untethered.” Those in the conversation began mentioning where they would like to go and live care-free for an extended period. When my turn came to speak up, I simply said, “Oh, I couldn’t do that – I’d have to resign from my job.”

A few days later, one of the women from the conversation circled back to me and questioned me on the sincerity of my response. She was an attorney with the “right” job, salary, car, and clothes. She was the epitome of a successful Seaver college graduate. She incredulously interrogated me about my true satisfaction with my job.

I was startled by this line of questioning and shared that even though my role did not afford direct interaction with students daily, I felt I was contributing to a larger, important cause that would matter to humanity and Go’s calling to serve others. I explained that the people I worked with were my friends and were people who mentored me and taught me how to be a better person both professionally and personally. As she continued to ask me questions, I felt a little embarrassed and realized just how much I took my situation for granted. I had assumed that everyone at the reunion felt the way I did about how they spent the bulk of their waking hours each week and that they all must have surely found jobs that were meaningful to them and brought them a deep sense of personal satisfaction.

A few weeks after the reunion, many of us received an e-mail from this woman announcing that she had decided to resign from her law firm and take some time to find a role that would allow her to apply her talents and skills towards a greater cause and find an organization that aligned with her personal values and faith. Once again, I felt humbled and determined not to take my work for granted and renewed my efforts to consciously be aware of the blessings I enjoyed at work and maintain a grateful heart and attitude.

We at Pepperdine are indeed a part of a higher purpose and calling. Whether we work and serve as accountants, landscapers, project managers, painters, public safety officers, professors, lawyers, or administrative assistants, our legacy from this place exists all over the world in the form of tens of thousands of alumni who have left us to go and lead lives of Purpose, Service, and Leadership – many serving “...the least of these...” – each according to their skills and God’s calling. Who can possibly argue that our work in this place, regardless of our individual job descriptions, is not meaningful and important? What you do as faculty and staff at Pepperdine University casts a ripple on the water of society impacting people and events that we may never know about.

Each transforming moment in the lives of our students and their families are a part of our legacy. Each epiphany of new understanding in the classroom, a heart moved to spiritual awakening while far away in Heidelberg, a parent entrusting their precious first born to RA’s and RD’s during New Student Orientation, a grandparent sitting in the graduation stands anticipating a long-awaited moment, a professor moved to tears as they witness classmates supporting one another during a graduate level workshop – all of these precious moments are enabled by each of us who works at this place.

“We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.” – Anonymous



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