



Established in 1894 as a national holiday, Labor Day was created to honor the indispensable contributions of American workers to the United States. More than a century later, many of us celebrate this first Monday in September as the swan song of summer, filling the day with barbecues, trips to the beach, and rest.

And indeed, it is important and necessary for us to relax and recharge—even God rested on the seventh day!

But when I consider the idea of "labor," I am reminded of Psalm 90:17: "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands." The psalmist asks God to bless the work of his people by making the value of their labor meaningful and lasting.

In your work—not just here at Pepperdine, but in every part of your life—do you ask for God's blessing? Are your labors creating good in the world that is worthy of permanence? Does what you do each day invite the favor of the Lord? This is a very high standard to set for ourselves personally, professionally, and spiritually, but when we think of the value of our work being meaningful and lasting, perhaps even eternal, it can inspire us to achieve amazing things.

I appreciate the amazing things that you all achieve here every day. It is your hard work that makes Pepperdine everything that it is. I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming holiday weekend, and that we all return refreshed, reinvigorated, and ready to meet the challenges of the new academic year.

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