



ORA ET LABORA

by Prof. J. Berger

Words of Christian counsel are these. Luther and many another kingdom-worker has cherished them as a golden maxim. All of us who are beginning this new school-year together at Concordia will do well to make them our motto for daily living.

"Lord, Thou must give success." If there is to be any measure of what we call success in our human undertakings, God must give it. He alone can give it. This is a fact which every Christian will readily acknowledge without reservation. "The fear of the Lord" includes the conviction that our intellectual endowments are talents that God bestows. And we practice the fear of the Lord when we call upon God to direct us in a God-pleasing and profitable use of the mental endowments that He bestows. Such calling upon God begets the right kind of confidence when we are confronted by difficult study tasks. A sense of utter dependence upon God is the direct opposite of vain pride and self-confidence. It was a man of great wisdom, who by the Spirit of God warned us against every form of intellectual pride. He wrote: "Lean not unto thine own understanding." (Prov. 3:5) And St. Paul stated the same warning even more bluntly: "Be not wise in your own conceits. - If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." True wisdom can come only from above. Those are not idle words that a Christian pastor once spoke, when he prayed down upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel

and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." Some one has well said that in our secular assignments as well as in our religious activities we all need the Holy Spirit to "bring all things to our remembrance." Modern psychology and pedagogy make a grave mistake in omitting from their calculations the existence of this powerful Person. Ora! Pray!

Et labora! These words of the golden maxim are equally important. God gives knowledge in the same manner as He gives daily bread. We must work for both. Prayer does not absolve

us from the duty of working. Taking God's name upon our lips is not a short cut to knowledge. A teacher who prays earnestly at the beginning of a class session does not have a permit to teach carelessly. And a student who reads his Bible for an hour a day is not relieved of the responsibility of working hard over his assignments. God does not bless pious indolence. There is no such thing as pious indolence. All of the pains-taking study, investigation, and reflection which are necessary to know anything are still necessary for the Christian in his pursuit of knowledge. Ora et labora! Pray-and work!

YOUR HIT PARADE by Joyce Sachs

Are you familiar with the latest songs? This may seem like an odd place to be learning about popular songs, but we are passing on to you some of the knowledge we gained at the State Walther League Convention.

So you think the Bible is stuffy and oblivious to modern love! We have news for you. If you have ever listened to the words of our pop songs today you must agree with me that the majority of them are worthless. Let's compare some of the more popular songs with what the Bible has to say about love and see for ourselves how they differ.

LOVE, according to popular songs is the most important thing in life. "There Ain't Nothin' in This World for a Boy and Girl but LOVE, LOVE, LOVE". This is not true according to the Bible. Love is very important in our lives, but not just the kind of love set forth in this song. One of our most popular songs is "MORE". One line of this song goes as follows: "You mean so much to me, much more than life to me" . . . and "more than eternity". I imagine most of us listen to the words without realizing the full meaning of them, but just stop and think! Any person who is a true Christian will certainly know that eternity is our most precious possession. We undoubtedly would not give it up for a mortal man or woman.

Many of our popular songs have a theme to the effect that time stands still when two people are in love. But wait! We can find

this holds true even in early Biblical days when Jacob served fourteen years for his beloved Rachel.

The saddest thing about today's popular love songs is that it places too much emphasis on the physical side of love. Often there are no barriers; as long as you are in love nothing matters. Of course we know that there must be a physical attraction between two people if they love each other, but this alone does not constitute love. However, the fact that there is a physical attraction between man and woman is evident also from the Bible.

The song "You Bring Out the Lover In Me" should not apply to us either. There is a difference between physical attraction of two people in love and just plain sexual interest. Let's remember this.

Real love is sacred, not just for a thrill. It is not idealistic either. True love exists through the years, but with a little effort we can usually pull through when a boyfriend or girlfriend leaves us. "Without You I'd Lose My Mind--" let's hope not! This is not the type of Christian love we are speaking of.

Listen to popular songs if you like. But be careful! Please don't take them seriously whatever you do. Remember that they are written primarily by non-Christians who are trying to appeal to the general public. Let's remember that Christian love comes from God, and according to His wish.