



THE CHRISTIAN AND SUMMERTIME

Introduction

- 1) Each **season** of the year - *spring, summer, fall, winter* - is given by God (Gen. 8:22; Psa. 74:17)
 - a) Each brings with it particular joys, challenges, and opportunities for our lives
- 2) **Summer** is a time that can be full of both joyous opportunities and dangerous temptations
 - a) A favorite season for many – special memories are made in the summers of our lives
- 3) We need to be reminded of the godly principles that should guide us through the unique and wonderful days of summer, as well as through all the seasons of the year (2 Pet. 1:12)

I) RECREATION

- A) Summer provides extra time for recreational activities and being with family and friends
- B) Things to remember when planning fun and recreation:
 - 1) Choose good company (1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 22:24-25)
 - 2) God's principles and standards are #1 priority (Matt. 6:33; Jas. 4:15)
 - 3) Others need to see good works in us (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:15-16)
 - 4) Avoid recklessness and worldly activities (1 Thess. 5:21-22; 2 Pet. 2:20; Eccl. 11:9-10)
 - a) Mixed swimming, unsupervised outings, alcohol/drugs, filthy movies, reckless driving
- C) Choose wholesome recreation (games, literature, places) that promotes good, clean fun

II) CLOTHING

- A) Summer has warm/hot weather – excuse for many to shed their clothing in public
 - 1) Summer fashions can be cool and stylish without being immodest and revealing
- B) Respect principles of modesty and covering nakedness (1 Tim. 2:9-10; Ex. 28:42; Isa. 47:2)
 - 1) Clothes that excite sensual thinking (short, tight, low-cut) by revealing certain areas of the body are immodest and incompatible with godly living
- C) Be careful what you wear – what you see – what you think; modesty takes no vacations

III) VACATIONS

- A) Planning of vacations must include finding sound congregations where one can worship on the Lord's Day as God has commanded (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:6-7)
 - 1) Avoid putting yourself in a position where worship with sound brethren will be impossible
 - 2) Good, consistent habits of assembling for worship/Bible study are hard to break!
- B) Remember to leave contribution (1 Cor. 16:2), and inform brethren of absence
- C) Do not allow family, friends, or worldly activities to distract you from your obligations to the Lord – be a good example to others by putting God first

IV) OTHER SPIRITUAL OBLIGATIONS

- A) Being a Christian cannot be turned on or off at will; we are Christians *at all times* with important responsibilities to fulfill before God (time to work/gather Prov. 10:5)
- B) Summertime (along with its free time for extra activities and plans) is still a time to:
 - 1) Study (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - 2) Worship (Heb. 10:25)
 - 3) Spread gospel (Mk. 16:15-16)
 - 4) Do good (Gal. 6:10)
- C) Easy for children out of school to get lazy with chores and Bible lessons
 - 1) Must emphasize that dependability, obedience, and spiritual learning never stops
- D) Christians are to be the salt of the earth and the lights of the world every day (Matt. 5:13-16)

Conclusion

Let us maintain a godly example in all our conduct every season of the year (Phil. 2:14-16), especially summertime. Do not let this opportunity of salvation pass you by (Jer. 8:20). Spend your days preparing for that eternal city where we shall spend an endless "happy summerland of bliss." Obey God today!!

