

Hays Mill church of Christ

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by R.J. Evans

Summertime is a delightful season in many ways. It is joyfully anticipated by school children and teachers who need to relax from the regimen of the classroom. It is usually a time for many families to take a much needed trip to a place where they can have fun and enjoy themselves. But, as God's people, let us remember that as Christians we are always Christians wherever we are and at whatever time of year it may be. Christianity is a year-round religion. However, during the summer, there are certain temptations that we must overcome and avoid. Let us notice some of them in this short article.

Neglected worship. We are taught not to forsake the assemblies of the church, Heb 10:25. But some who have been regular in their

attendance during other seasons of the year will start allowing summer activities to get in the way, and they will start missing the services of the church. Some will take vacation trips with carefully laid out plans for food, lodging and entertainment, but with no advance planning or thought to where they are going to meet to worship with the saints on the Lord's day. Christians should not plan vacations and weekend trips with no intentions of attending the worship services of a faithful congregation. This is very unwise and will weaken one's faith.

Neglected local obligations. Every Christian is to support the work of the local congregation by giving cheerfully on the first day of the week, 1 Cor 16:1,2. How could any child of God think that he is excused from this responsibility because it is summertime? Why should the work of the local church suffer because Christians fail to "make up" their contributions after they return from a trip? One thing is for certain, congregational expenses do not cease during the summer.

Indecent exposure. Some think the moment the weather warms up, it is time to start taking off their clothes, and begin wearing skimpy clothing that leaves most of their bodies exposed. The Apostle Paul plainly says that Christians are to dress modestly (orderly and decent), with propriety (with a sense of dignity, shame, with the ability to blush), and with moderation (seriousness which reflects a heart of modesty and purity), 1 Tim 2:9,10. Another problem with immodesty is that the person dressing in such a manner can cause another person to sin, Mt 5:28. If parents have not instilled a sense of modesty in their children's hearts and minds when they are very young, by the time they reach adolescence, it is probably too late. Do you as a parent, or as a husband, want your daughter or wife to become sex objects when they appear in public wearing skimpy,

immodest clothing, tight, revealing outfits, swim suits, costumes, uniforms, etc. Do you want your wife or daughter to be the objects of vulgar leers of worldly men who make it a point to lust after and observe their nakedness in scanty, revealing clothing? Is dressing (or better yet, undressing) this way becoming to a Christian? Think about it! Some years back, the Army did a study concerning how soldiers should dress in tropical, desert climates. They found that skin temperatures were actually cooler when they wore loose long pants, as opposed to knee-shorts worn by British soldiers. If you will notice, those who live in hot, desert areas, wear loose, long, light-colored clothing that covers the entire body. Exposing our skin when it is hot is not to be used as an excuse to stay cool and dress immodestly.

May we all have a pleasant summer season. But please remember your responsibilities as a Christian. Don't allow the casual, easy-going spirit of the warmer months to sear your conscience and weaken your faith in God.

—via Search for Truth, July 23, 2023 🔎



What Should We Do with the Gospel?

by Kenny Chumbley

Paul included four prayers in his letters to the Thessalonians, two to the Colossians, two to the Ephesians, and one to the Philippians, found in Phil 1:3-11, in which is taught several things Christians should do with the gospel.

Fellowship in it, Phil 1:5. The gospel/good news is summed up in the one-sentence sermon Paul preached to the Philippian jailer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved," Acts 16:31. Those who truly believe the gospel will spread it, personally and by financially supporting gospel preaching, Phil 4:15,16.

Defend it, Phil 1:7. Christians speak up when their faith is challenged. We don't expect people to believe our religious claims just because we say so, thus, we are prepared to show them so. We will not be silent before the fake news the world tells about Jesus Christ.

Further it, Phil 1:12. Apostleship brought Paul a lot of trouble, 2 Cor 11:23-28, yet, his trouble served to advance the gospel. The word translated furtherance or progress was used to describe the army corps of engineers, who went before the army to cut a path through undergrowth or forest in order that the army might continue its march. This thought of using trouble to further the gospel connects with verse 6: God will complete the good work He has begun; the evil of bad men and the weakness of good men will not keep Him from finishing what He has started in us.

Live it, Phil 1:27. Conduct translates the Greek word for politics, and it involves the idea of how citizens—in this case, of heaven—ought to live. Only is an important modifier: this one thing and this only! Nothing must distract Christians from Christ-like living.

Mike B will be having another procedure on his liver, shortly—they have traditionally been very painful. Alice's sister, Alberta Stone, passed away Wednesday morning... please pray for Alberta's family.

Please continue to pray for Carolyn; Betty; and Kathy Mitchell.