

Don't Take A Vacation!

Introduction. A vacation is defined as an extended period of recreation, especially one spent away from home or in traveling. The word comes from *vacare* which means “be unoccupied.”

One has to take up their cross all of the time but vacations (Matthew 16:24), because they are a time of rest, can be tempting to set aside the responsibilities of the Lord's calling (2 Thessalonians 1:11). We are going to look at three important items that we don't leave behind on vacation.

I. Don't Leave Behind Your Morals

- A. “Walk” is a habitual course of action and would apply to any sin (Ephesians 4:1).
- B. Several moral sins must be watched (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:14-16):
 - 1. Drunkenness and social drinking (Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-32; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Peter 4:3; cp. 1 Thessalonians 5:6, 8).
 - 2. Dancing (Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 5:28; cp. 1 Timothy 6:11).
 - 3. Profanity and other sins of the tongue (Ephesians 4:29; 5:4; Romans 1:29-30; 2 Corinthians 12:20; 1 Timothy 5:13; 3 John 10).
 - 4. Gambling (Luke 12:42; 16:2; Matthew 7:12; 1 Corinthians 10:24; Colossians 3:5-6; 1 Timothy 6:10; John 8:34; Galatians 5:23).

II. Don't Leave Behind Your Modesty

- A. Almost all vacations are taken when it is hot.
 - 1. A Christian lives by the enduring principle that swimwear, dresses, shorts, shirts, and other types of clothing do not change with the climate.
 - 2. Age does not matter as well. We see lots of older people who have learned how to dress modestly. Younger people need to learn it too.
- B. There are important instructions that apply to men and women:
 - 1. Women (Proverbs 7:10; Isaiah 47:2; 1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:1-5; cp. Matthew 18:6-7).
 - 2. Men (2 Samuel 11:2, 4; Proverbs 4:23; 6:27-35; Matthew 5:28; 2 Peter 2:14).

III. Don't Leave Behind Your Devotion

- A. Seek God's kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).
 - 1. Christians know that the “kingdom” is the church and “His righteousness” is the salvation that is now found Christ. This means the church and salvation must come first or have the greatest prominence in our lives (Matthew 10:37-38).
 - 2. Every assembly is designed to help the church grow and to further our salvation (2 Peter 1:5-8). If we neglect these assemblies just because it is inconvenient, we are not seeking His kingdom first. Make the effort!
- B. Make the most of your time (Ephesians 5:16).
 - 1. To “redeem the time” is to realize its value and use it to the best possible advantage. A Christian on vacation must decide how he will spend his time.

Here is time that he can spend with other Christians in the study of the Bible or worshipping God (Psalm 119:97; Proverbs 2:10-11).

2. On the other hand, he can spend the same time sightseeing, relaxing, reading, traveling, visiting with friends, etc. Which of these would be the best use of time? Brethren are so encouraged when you make time for the Lord while on vacation and visit with them. Your sacrifice validates their sacrifice.
- C. Be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).
1. All Christians will admit that the periods of worship and study commanded by God is a “good work” (Hebrews 10:25).
 2. To be indifferent toward these assemblies is to disregard divine teaching to be “ready for every good work” (Titus 3:1; cp. Colossians 1:10).
- D. Be a lover of worship (Psalm 42:1-2).
1. Coupled with these principles is the fact that every faithful child of God through the course of history has been a lover of worship (Psalm 84:1-2, 10). Here is a person who can hardly wait to get to the assembly (Psalm 122:1).
 2. Some, rather than looking for an opportunity to worship, they use the opportunity of being on vacation to purposefully avoid it. It seems strange that people would proclaim devotion to God at one assembly and then disregard another assembly when they could attend without a lot of trouble.

Conclusion. The denominational idea of “going to church” is incredibly pervasive. More accurately, you are faithful to the Lord. A Christian has tremendous influence, so you are a Christian all the time, even when you travel, not just when you “go to church” (cp. Philippians 2:15). Following the gospel is not defined as a seasonal religion, nor is it circumstantial in nature. The “seasonal Christian” is good at church services and in the presence of brethren, but he becomes a reprobate when he goes on vacation! God sees us all the time (Hebrews 4:13).