

Weather Hindrances

by Wayne Goff

This past winter weather has hampered our efforts to worship publicly. A local weather station reported that we have had 28 days of some sort of ice/sleet/snow this winter, beginning back in October. Perhaps even more difficult to deal with has been the extreme cold temperatures which often prevented packed snow and ice from melting efficiently. Presently it is sunny and 7 degrees as I write this column, and the church's parking lot is *literally* an ice pond. Lord willing, tomorrow will bring temperatures warm enough to melt the ice. The rays from the sun do a terrific job, but if the ground is white, it just reflects the sun's heat.

The apostle Paul often had to deal with weather issues, too. Three times he mentions winter (1 Cor. 16:6; 2 Tim. 4:21; Titus 3:12). His final letter to Timothy reads, "*Do your utmost to come before winter...*" Just like us, Paul was hindered from his work by winter weather. Only this statement was made from a Roman prison cell where Paul was awaiting execution. It was the **winter** of his life, and it would shortly come to an abrupt end.

Winter symbolizes **death**. All nature dies and remains lifeless under the mighty winds which blow in from the northwest and chill everything with life in it. Trees, shrubs, grass all die. People shiver from the cold and rush to be indoors. Darkness dominates the day, allowing only ten hours of light, leaving fourteen hours of darkness. I hate this fact the most.

Be sure as the winter trudges on that you do not lose that *spiritual spark* and die *spiritually*. Too many take spiritual life for granted and remain in a *chosen "darkness"* where God's Word does not often enough invade the mind. Missing Bible study or worship services may seem like a welcomed "break" to some, but it also carries with it the danger of lethargy and indifference. Be sure that this winter does not leave you indifferent to your relationship with Jesus Christ, and to your responsibilities to Him and to your brethren. [Be sure this winter is not your spiritual winter!](#)

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