

Take God With You On Your Vacation!

by Wayne Goff

We are already in the vacation season as last week's travelers can attest. We welcome the opportunity for our brethren to take some time off away from home, daily duties, work, and the normal routine of life. It may be that Americans, like the Romans, are a people of hard work and little time to recreate.

God has always seen the need for man to rest. In the Old Testament, we read of a Sabbath day's rest given to the Israelites:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ... but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8, 10-11. No, God did not "rest" as man does. But God instituted a day each week in which man would end his own pursuits and spend a day separate from that to dedicate to God. Sometimes "rest" simply means "do something else for a different reason"! Man can work himself to death to earn a living and forget how to make a life. One can only make a life with God first in his heart. "Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death" Exodus 35:2.

Secondly, man is also in need of actual rest. We see Jesus and His apostles taking time away from their harried routine:

"And He said to them, 'Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.' For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves" Mark 6:31-32.

Yes, even Jesus and His disciples needed a break, some rest, from the duties and work of preaching the Gospel. Many preachers today can attest to the stress involved in not only preaching and teaching God's Word, but also that which "comes upon (them) daily: (their) deep concern for all the churches" (2 Cor. 11:28). Along with gospel preaching comes the great concern each of us has as a result of the eternal consequences attached to the mission!

Remember though, brethren, when you travel across this great country of ours, or even into foreign lands, it may not be easy to find a local church with which to worship. So plan ahead! There are several avenues of help in finding a place to worship. For example, one can go to www.bible.ca. This is a web site operated by a Christian, Steve Rudd, who does his best to find good congregations with which to worship near where you live or travel. Another one, FindTheChurch.com is a web site for "non-institutional churches of Christ." It is more graphically oriented and is fun to use. Our web site can be found on that web site by first clicking on the state, then the city, and finally the "dot" on I-29! Try it out and see! There are probably others of which I am unaware, but be careful in your search and do your best to locate a conservative congregation. When you arrive at your destination, don't wait until Sunday morning to locate the building where you want to worship. You may have difficulty finding it, or the church there may have moved without notice, or it might even have closed! Take a few minutes Saturday evening, locate the building and the easiest access to it. On Sunday morning, you will be glad you did.

Yes, take God with you on your vacation! God expects you to worship with the saints wherever you go.

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