

## Hindrances to the Church

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by Wayne Goff

### Summertime

The summer months are the time for a break in the dull routine of life. Families take a week or two for vacation to get out and “re-create” in order that they might not get burned out. A mental, physical break — short or long — is important to our well being. The chaos of the disorderly is the byword for the summer — somebody is gone every week it seems. You cannot count on anything “regular,” and so the church waits for summer to end.

### “Back To School”

Well, with the end of summer comes the beginning of school — buying clothes, books, backpacks, pencils, pens and at least one protractor that will never be used — and we are ready to settle down into a much needed **routine** and get back to work. School begins, parents work, homework becomes a chore, and attention to spiritual things suffers again. The church waits for things to settle down.

### “Football Season & The Holidays”

As the fall leaves turn to beautiful hues of orange, yellow, and deep red, and the frost begins to nip at our noses and ears, we hear the clamor for football — high school, college, and the pros — and everyone’s attention turns to games on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Soon the victorious few parade around with great pride, while the rest fall behind with the faint hope of “Wait till next year!” The holidays come upon us suddenly and we take time to visit with friends and family around the warm hearth of home and wonder where the past year has gone. Food to cook, houses to clean, trips to visit families, and gifts to buy just before Christmas, and again the church waits for things to calm down so that we can focus on heaven and eternity.

### “Happy New Year” & Winter

Suddenly January 1 rolls around, and with our bloated bellies, stretched credit cards, and tired minds, we “**resolve**” to lose weight, spend less, and study God’s Word more. And we begin with all the enthusiasm of a prize fighter. After all, it’s cold outside, there’s no lawn to mow, and in the dead of winter, we have time to focus on the spiritual. There’s nothing better than an open Bible, a hot cup of coffee, a roaring fire, and a little snow on the ground outside. But then those nasty “bugs” and “viruses” hit, and we have influenza, pneumonia, winter colds, etc. that just knock the life out of us, and we are forced to study with a tissue in our hands to wipe our runny noses. We find it hard to focus. We long for Spring and nature’s beautiful life. We actually *want* to smell fresh-cut grass, even if we are behind the mower! And the church waits again for a more convenient season.

### “Now” Is The Time

*“We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, **now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation**” (2 Cor. 6:1-2).* It is easy to let things slip spiritually, isn’t it? It isn’t that we mean to let these things happen but life in America is one giant “rat race”! Satan has many devices by which he tempts even **the faithful saint** to put off serving the Lord today. I didn’t coin the phrase, “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.” But whoever did saw the same things then that I see now. Dear reader, heaven is a *prepared* place for a *prepared* people. You have to “**take time** to be holy” because it sure won’t present itself to you on a silver platter! Satan may not convince you to give up on Christianity, but he might just say “wait a little while, and then serve God better.”

