

Memorial Day Weekend

by Wayne Goff

Well, summertime is *unofficially* here. Public schools are dismissed now, families are planning their vacations, going out of town and enjoying *the less stressful grind* of daily activities and deadlines. Some will miss the “routine” of everyday life, but most everyone will be welcoming a little time of rest and reviving. Such is the nature of being human – we need time to rest and relax.

When Jesus and His apostles heard of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus 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**). We don’t often think about how **exhausting** it was just to be around Jesus as a helper during His earthly ministry, but it was indeed.

The very nature of the **Sabbath** was to give man a day of rest, knowing that he would abuse his work and neglect the spiritual side, if left to himself. That’s why Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for making the *stringent unlawful regulations* for the Sabbath, to the neglect of the body. Lawfully, Jesus’ disciples were plucking grain to eat as they went through the grain fields. The Pharisees accused them of violating the Sabbath, but Jesus said instead: “*The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath*” (**Mk. 2:28**).

Notice what the Law actually said: “*This is what the LORD has said: ‘Tomorrow is **a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD....**’*” (**Exodus 16:23**). “*Six days you shall do your work, and **on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed***” (**Exodus 23:12**). Man needs rest. He abuses himself when he does not take the proper time to rest, and reflect upon his life before God.

So, now that we are embarking on that period of rest, **do** enjoy your vacation time. Be careful. Do something that is a “**re-creation**” from your normal routine – after all, that’s what **recreation** means. But be sure that you take God with you wherever you go! It’s a blessing to find brethren in different places who are striving to worship and serve God just as you and I are doing. But it’s also interesting to notice how many places do not have a faithful local church. So when you find one, be sure to worship with the church, and encourage the local brethren, as well as learn yourself from the experience.

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