

Tips For The Christian's Summer

Summer is now in full swing, and with it comes vacations, backyard cookouts, camping trips, and many other activities that we often enjoy. Unfortunately, in the midst of all this merrymaking, many Christians take a "vacation" from God and from their daily duties as a Christian. I would like to suggest a few tips to help Christians further their spiritual health through the summer.

1. Summer often comes with larger amounts of time off. Make it a point to set a portion of this time aside for personal Bible study and prayer. We are told in 1st Thessalonians to "*pray without ceasing*" and in 2 Timothy 2:15 to be diligent to show ourselves approved before God. The extra time we have in the summer provides an excellent opportunity for us to grow spiritually through even more study and prayer.
2. When going on trips that involve being away on a Lord's Day or Wednesday evening, make it a top priority to locate a sound congregation in the area you will be visiting, and most importantly, worship with this congregation. Hebrews 10:25 tells us that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. The faithful Christian will seek to put God first in all aspects of his life (Matthew 6:33). A summer vacation will prove to be no exception.
3. Take advantage of the extra time you have to visit shut-ins and elderly brethren. Sadly, with the rest of the year being relatively busy and hectic, we overlook this critical part of being a Christian. This summer, as you find extra time on your hands, use that time to visit these brethren and encourage them. (James 1:27, Matthew 25:34-45)
4. With some extra time at hand, go out and spread the Gospel to others. Hand out study material, hold Bible studies, talk to people about the Word of God! Whatever method(s) you prefer or are capable of doing, use it in the service of God! There is always a call for active workers in the Kingdom (Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 9:37-38, 2 Timothy 4:2).
5. Finally, make time to spend with your fellow brethren outside of the worship assembly. Any occasion upon which brethren spend time together is truly blessed (Psalm 133:1), and will build all involved up spiritually and emotionally. There are no greater earthly friends than our fellow Christians, and much can be gained from time spent with them.

These are just a few of the many ways in which we can make this summer a spiritually profitable one as children of God. With this being said, it must be noted that these activities must not be limited to just the summer, but should instead be participated in throughout the year, in all seasons and times. However, we can use the extra time in our "summer breaks" to further the cause of Christ and build one another up, and therefore "*redeem the time*" we have been given (Ephesians 5:15).

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