

Sermon Notes

# Reflections

Summer  
Break?



*River Road  
Baptist Church  
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# Reflections

## RELIGIOUS?

As what passes for Spring in our “neck of the woods” begins to unfold we, with excitement, begin making plans for our brief Summer. We think of the wonderful outdoor activities that are so much fun when the sun shines and the air is warm and comfortable. We look forward to the barbeques, picnics, fishing, swimming, boating, hiking and many other fun-filled activities that just aren’t that much fun in the rain, wind and cold of the rest of the year. Schools let out for their Summer vacation and kids look forward to forgetting all they have learned and spending their time pursuing “fun stuff.”

Having spent 33 years in the world of education, I certainly understand the excitement of Summer break. The schools, however, are not the sole beneficiaries of this time of change in our routines. In our church programs we also look forward to the Summer break as a brief change in venue. Some of our programs wait out the warm months of Summer by going on furlough for a time of rest from the rigors of schedules that have become so much a part of the life in our churches. One might ask: So is there a problem and if so, what might it be?

Let’s consider both the positives and the negatives associated with Summer break. The rest is certainly well deserved. Teachers and leaders do need a time away from the rigors of carrying out the lessons and activities for refreshment of energy and spirit. In business it is called a vacation. There might be, however, a negative side if we aren’t spiritually vigilant during this break in the action.

One might ask: What could possibly be a negative in this wonderful time of rest and recreation? How about a question to pursue an answer to the original question? In our Summer break do we also take a break from our personal prayer life, our study of the Word and from being alert to ministry needs of others? If so we have discovered the other side of the coin.

Walking with Jesus is not just about programs, classes, and other church activities, so even though we might take a brief hiatus from the programs it is important to not take a vacation from our walk with Him. Jesus reminds us that He is our source

of life and that we must always remain in him to be truly alive and to be His disciples. ... *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup> "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (John 15:1 NAS)* So while we enjoy a time of vacation and rest, let’s not take a furlough from walking as His disciples. Even while we engage in all those fun activities, we can represent Him by our chaste behaviors and disciplines and in so doing we live out our salvation to His glory.

Being His disciples doesn’t mean that we can’t have fun. We, of all people, should be free to have great times of fun and yet in our recreation should continue to represent our Savior well. How we talk, how we conduct ourselves in matters of personal discipline, how we relate to others and how we treat each other, all are indicators of our relationship with Christ. Our fun times should be a natural extension of our joy in Christ and in our walk with Jesus remembering, .... *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. (Matthew 12:1 KJV)* We are a people whose life is secured in Jesus, and who then can express the joy of our salvation in all that we do and in our recreation and fun times especially.

We should remember that the beauty of Summer with the warmth of its sunny days, the long hours of daylight, the warm relationships with others shared in our recreational activities, is one of the many ways that God has shown us His creative power, His eternal glory and His love for us. ... *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, (Romans 1:20 NAS)*

**Summer is just around the corner!** Our summer camps at the lake are on the calendar, vacations and trips are being scheduled, barbeques are being planned, and all the exciting events that blossom in the times of warm sun-drenched days are almost here. So here’s the “bottom line”. Please have fun, enjoy the great weather, and rejoice in the creation that has been made for us in which to “see” God’s glory revealed. I just have one caution. *Try not to all be gone on the same weekends!* It would get very lonely without the warmth of your presence as we continue to have church throughout the summer. Rejoice in the Lord’s wonderful creation this Summer, but don’t take a break from being His disciple. **Pastor Doug**