

Seasonal Sins

I am please today to announce the obvious - tomorrow is Memorial Day. Officially this it to honor those who have fallen in this nation's wars.

Memorial Day

"...honoring U.S. citizens who have died in war. Originally commemorating soldiers killed in the American Civil War, the observance was later extended to all U.S. war dead. Most states conform to the federal practice of observing the holiday on the last Monday in May, which began in 1971, but a few retain the long-established day of celebration, May 30. National observance is marked officially by the placing of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia...The custom itself of honoring the graves of the war dead began before the close of the Civil War...There was no fixed day of national celebration, however, until 1868, when Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a general order designating May 30, 1868, "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion." Encyclopedia Britannica

Yet for most of us, and this may tell us something about the spirit of our age, it marks the beginning of summer. The calendar says that it isn't summer for another three weeks yet, but for all practical purposes, summer starts tomorrow. School is out, the weather is warm, Coca-Cola will make half its profits between now and Labor Day. So it's summer time and all that comes with it. Some of that's good, some is obviously bad. Enjoy the summer, but avoid the common sins of it.

we must be always ready to preach the gospel

1 Tim. 4:1,2 "I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."

and likewise we must be willing to practice our faith round the clock and round the calendar

I. Over Emphasis on Relaxation & Fun

we often act as if this were owed to us - that there is a Divine right to fun

A. Legitimate Need of Rest

1.) The Sabbath

Ex. 23:12 "Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease from labor in order that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves."

Ex. 34:21 "You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during plowing time and harvest you shall rest."

This was a day of prayer and dedication to God as well as a day of rest.

2.) Abraham's Feast for Isaac

Gen. 21:8 "And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned."

3.) Jesus and Disciples Rested

Mark 6:30-32 “And the apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught.

31 And He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest a while.” (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.)

32 And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves.”

4.) Paul Needed Time Alone

Acts 20:13,14 “But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for thus he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land.

14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene.”

B. Priorities Must Be Straight

1.) First Comes the Time of Work

Jas. 4:1-4 “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have; *so* you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; *so* you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

vs. 3 want just to spend on pleasures

“An idle mind is the Devil's workshop”

Prov. 6:6 “Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,

7 Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler,

8 Prepares her food in the summer, And gathers her provision in the harvest.

9 How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest

b And your poverty will come in like a vagabond, And your need like an armed man.”

2.) Must be Ready to Stop When the Time Comes

Matt. 26:45 “Then He came to the disciples, and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

3.) Recreation is Not a Primary Goal in Life

Luke 12:16-21 “And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a certain rich man was very productive.

17 And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’

18 And he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.’”

20 But God said to him, ‘You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?’

21 So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

rich fool ready to stop all work, just recreate from here on out

4.) All Recreational Activities Must Be Godly

Phil. 4:8,9 “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.”

think about what is good, practice what Paul did.

THIS WOULD LEAVE OUT SOME THINGS THAT WORLD DOES FOR RECREATION

II. Immodesty & Lusting

A. Temptations More Abundant -- Its Hot!

Its actually cooler to be properly clothed - keeps the sun off, esp. in light, loose clothes

This is an argument based on convenience -

The scriptures shows us how ludicrous this is

it was as hot then and no air conditioning and light weight fabrics - and Christians then were still expected to dress themselves properly

Israel was as hot as country as this and they were to cloth themselves.

Its just as hot for those of us with clothes on and we haven't died from it yet

Arabs - know it is actually cooler to keep the sun off of you with full length loose clothes

example of Anglican missionaries in Hawaii - wore wool suits, high collars and ties - all the time

yet some think proximity to water negates this command

swimming or boating are fine activities, but they are regulated by God's commands

B. Modesty Still Required & Eyes Must Still Be Averted

1.) Must Be Modest

1 Tim. 2:9 “Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments”

a.) Proper, Modest

(Strg. 2887) κοσμιος *kosmios* AV - modest 1, of good behavior 1; 2

well arranged, seemly, modest Thayer

not over done, not under done

b.) Clothing, Apparel

(Strg. 2689) καταστολε *katastole* AV - apparel 1; 1

1) a lowering, letting down 2) a garment let down, dress, attire Thayer

letting down - some today want to be getting up.

c.) Modestly, Shamefacedness, Propriety

(Strg. 127) αιδος *aidos* AV - shamefacedness 1, reverence 1; 2

a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect

Thayer

d.) Discreetly, Sobriety, Moderation

(Strg. 4997) σοφροσυνη *sophrosune* AV - sobriety 2, soberness 1; 3

1) soundness of mind 2) self-control, sobriety Thayer

2.) Must Not Look To Lust

Matt. 5:27,28 “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; **28** but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

Jesus is clear on the requirement

2 Pet. 2:14 “having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin...”
the false teacher is marked by lack of restraint

Job 31:1 “I Have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?”
NIV “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.”

Job made an agreement with himself not to look with lust - we must as well

so women - don't give anything to lust at, men - don't lust even if they do.
neither is excused for failing

C. But Every Body Else Does It!

1.) SO WHAT?

1 Jn. 2:15,16 “Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

They do it - but they are evil

you have to be better than that

Rom. 12:1,2 “I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2.) The Apostle Peter Didn't

Jesus appears at the shore where the disciples were fishing

Jn. 21:7 “That disciple therefore whom Jesus loved *said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” And so when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped *for work*), and threw himself into the sea.”

NASB “stripped” KJV, ASV “naked”

Matt. 24:18 “and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak.”

For work you could strip down some - but no reference to doing so in mixed company
PETER GOT DRESSED TO GET INTO THE WATER!!!!

again, *being near water doesn't excuse immodesty*

he wanted to be dressed when he met the Lord, wet or not

today's “disciple” might take more off for the swim in, and then get dressed near Jesus
nothing wrong with being in the water - JUST KEEP YOUR CLOTHES ON

D. Its Not My Fault Others Are Dirty Minded

yes, there sin is their own fault, but...

Matt. 18:7-11 “Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

8 And if your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the eternal fire.

9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out, and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into the fiery hell.

10 See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.

11 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.”

Don't give anyone more cause than already there to sin – be a light to the world in all things

don't be the instrument of Satan to cause another to sin.

E. Also Closely Tied To Drinking

Hab. 2:15,16 “Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, Who mix in your venom even to make *them* drunk So as to look on their nakedness!

16 “You will be filled with disgrace rather than honor. Now you yourself drink and expose your *own* nakedness. The cup in the LORD'S right hand will come around to you, And utter disgrace *will come* upon your glory.

and since were on the topic of alcohol...

III. Drinking

A. At Parties

These go on year round, but the yard party and the cooler of beer

or the cooler full on the boat

or the cooler full down by the lake

or the cooler full in the RV

or the cooler full.at/in/by/with.... for some there seems to be no place not suitable for a cooler full

B. Its Hot

“nothing quenches thirst like a good beer” some say

if it's hot isn't good enough reason for my wife to be in a tube top, its not good enough for me to be holding a beer either. If either of these are OK we all ought to just pack it in right now.

C. Prohibitions Against Intoxicants

1.) Against Being Intoxicated

1 Cor. 6:9,10 “ Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Gal. 5:21 “envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

2.) Against Any Stage or Association with Intoxication

1 Pet. 4:3,4 “For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the

Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

4 And in *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign *you*”

D. Effects of Wine

1.) Unbridled Tongue

Prov. 20:1 “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.”

2.) Leads to Indecency

Hab. 2:15,16 “Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, Who mix in your venom even to make *them* drunk So as to look on their nakedness!

16 You will be filled with disgrace rather than honor. Now you yourself drink and expose your *own* nakedness. The cup in the LORD'S right hand will come around to you, And utter disgrace *will come* upon your glory.”

3.) Perverts Judgment

Prov. 31:4,5 “It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink,

5 Lest they drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

4.) Makes One Sick - Body and Spirit

Isa. 5:11 “Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink; Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them!”

Hos. 7:5,6 “On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers,

6 For their hearts are like an oven As they approach their plotting; Their anger smolders all night, In the morning it burns like a flaming fire.”

Isa. 28:7,8 “And these also reel with wine and stagger from strong drink: The priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, They are confused by wine, they stagger from strong drink; They reel while having visions, They totter *when rendering* judgment.

8 For all the tables are full of filthy vomit, without a *single clean* place.”

IV. Non-Attendance

A. God is Worthy to be Worshipped All Year Long

God is to be worshiped because of who He is

Rev. 4:2-11 “Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.

3 And He who was sitting *was* like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.

4 And around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones *I saw* twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

5 And from the throne proceed flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

6 and before the throne *there was*, as it were, a sea of glass like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

7 And the first creature *was* like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle.

8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, *is* THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."

9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

No matter what the date or where you plan on being on the Lord's day - God still says to worship Him.

B. Glad To Go Part of the Year?

Ps. 122:1 "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord.
But David wasn't so glad when it was time to go to his summer palace?"

C. Its Just To Nice A Time To _____ To Go Back Sunday/Wednesday Night

Good enough for Picnics/Travel/Visiting/Yard Work/Sitting on the Porch Swing, etc.

why not enjoy worship even more on this beautiful day that the Lord has made?

there are so many people gathered at the bayou as I come to serve I want to sing, "Shall We Gather At The River," but I know its time to honor God.

Heb. 10:25 "not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some"

These are basic things, but we all, old and young need to be reminded, and we need to remind our children, grandchildren and brethren.

Heb. 3:13 "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."