

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Our Leisure Time

(Jerry Fite)

**B**y definition, leisure time is your time apart from the time needed for fulfilling your occupational or business responsibilities. It is the time at your disposal, apart from the time you expend providing income for your family or maintaining a home for your family (*I Timothy 5:8, Proverbs 31:10-31*).

Jesus recognized the need for the body to rest in the dimension of leisure time. He said to his disciples, “*Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest for a while. For there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat*” (*Mark 6:31*).

Our society not only cherishes “down” time, but it spends precious “present” time in determining how and when one will wind down and relax. With many working less hours in a week, and retiring earlier in life, we should give thought to our leisure time. Having a diversion from the pressure packed demands on our time is healthy, both mentally and physically. What should we consider as we think about our leisure time?

First, we should remember that all we do is important to God. What we do should be done “*all to the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31)*”. Even as we plan for our daily rest, it is not devoid of trust in God’s providential care. As the Psalmist said, “*I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for Jehovah sustaineth me*” (*Psalms 3:5*). Is the movie to which we are about to invest a couple of hours of leisure time fitting for the godly eye to see? Is the book we are about to escape into, a place for the godly mind to dwell? Will my movie or book selection dishonor my Holy God?

Second, we should consider the impact of our use of leisure time upon others. We art to be “*a light*” to the “world” around us (*Matthew 5:16*). This does not mean we can go “dark” in our “down time.” Are we to shine before the world only when we are doing our work on the job or at school? Also, we must remember that exercising “our liberties” must never lead others to “stumble” in their walk with God (*I Corinthians 8:9*). This principle should help us in determining our choice of entertainment.

Third, we should consider that all time is precious, even leisure time. It is not to be wasted. Even in our leisure time, we should be conscious of not wasting it on unproductive things, but instead, focusing on making the best use of our time (*Ephesians 5:16, Colossians 4:5*). We should ask ourselves, what redeeming value will this proposed activity have on my life?

We should never allow leisure time to be an occasion for the Devil to control us. Idle time is when sin can make its intrusion into our lives. It is when we are most vulnerable. David experienced the truth of the saying, “*idle hands are the Devil’s workshop.*” In David’s leisure time, his eye and mind drifted from the bounds of holiness to unfettered corruption of lust and covetousness (*2 Samuel 11:2-5*). David reminds us that a moment of unwise use of leisure time can lead to a lifetime of regret (*Psalms 51:3*).

Being good stewards of the money God has blessed us with should always be on our mind (*Luke 16:1-13*). It is easy to go “overboard” in our spending for leisure time. In leisure, remain a wise steward!