

Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XXIII

July 21, 2013

No. 29

Our Leisure Time

(Jerry Fite)

By definition, leisure time is your time apart from the time needed for fulfilling your occupational or business responsibilities. It is the time for you to use at your disposal, apart from the time you expend providing income for your family or maintaining a home for your family (*1 Timothy 5:8, Proverbs 31:10-31*).

Jesus recognized the need for the body to rest in the realm 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*).

We live in a society that not only cherishes its “down” time, but spends time in managing how and where one can get away to relax. Leisure time is something to which we should give thought due to people working less hours in a week, and retiring earlier in life. Having a diversion from the pressure packed demands on our time is healthy mentally and physically. What

should we consider in regards to our leisure time?

First, we should understand that all we do is important to God. What we do should be done “*all to the glory of God*” (*1 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*). The movie we are about to invest a couple of hours of leisure time in, is it fitting for the godly eye to see? The book we are about to escape into, is it fitting for the godly mind to dwell upon? 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 are to be “*a light*” to the “*world*” around us (*Matthew 5:16*). This does not mean that we can “go dark” in our “down time”. We should remember that exercising “*our liberties*” should never cause others to “*stumble*” (*1 Corinthians 8:9*). This principle should help us in

determining our choice of entertainment.

Third, we should consider that all time should be considered 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 making the best use of our time (*Ephesians 5:16, Col. 4:5*). We should ask ourselves, what redeeming value will this activity have on my life?

we should never allow leisure time to be an occasion for the Devil to control us. It is our idle time, when we can be the most vulnerable for sin. 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 the boundless corruption of lust and covetousness (*2 Samuel 11:2-5*).

Being good stewards of the money God allows us to have should also factor in our leisure time. It is easy to go overboard in our spending for leisure time. In leisure, remain a wise a steward.