

Pullman
Mpp
Janner

Dr. Brown
Norman Ok, Pastor
Pe Run - Summer concerns
1 - Affairs of 2 - Responsibility of the Church
3 - Financial - count books

SIN, July 22, 79 A.M

Brund Loy June 7, 1878 m.
Grove Park Aug. 6, 89 AM v.v.
Lake Drummond June 9, 96 AM v.v.

"VACATION TEMPTATIONS"

Mark 6:31

"Come ye therefore apart into a desert place, and rest awhile."

Jesus had little time to eat before the crowds were again pressing him and he had received the awful news about the death of John The Baptist. And he suggested to his Disciples that they cross over the lake for a brief season of rest, some refreshment.

However, this will not last long. By the time they reached the landing place, Jesus was greeted upon his arrival with the great crowds. And he forgot his own weariness and gave himself to the ministry of teaching and healing.

But he had been curing the sick, casting out devils, and working under a constant strain. Therefore, he felt the need for a vacation or a rest.

Senior citizens took A Trip - Vacation - one old Man, complained The Best starts hard as had to get up twice that night to get some rest.

The matter of re-creation in our bodies is something that is recognized by God. It is a necessity for man. If man continues with the absence of physical rest, it would produce destruction. He needs physical recreation, the cultivation of his mind, and other things as he comes along through life. Jesus said, "come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden - and I will give you rest."

Gen. 2 - speaks of rest as well as work.

One of the laws at Sinai ordained that in six days we should work - on the 7th day, we should do no manner of work.

Prophesy points on the distant future and declares - there remaineth a rest for the people of God."

There is no need or want that God has not met for man. You take even a butterfly - as the eggs are deposited, and young catapillars grow, and there is a time of rest provided before that butterfly comes forth.

It is like the nighttime - a man has to sleep. And for a laboring man, laboring and sleep are sweet.

In the Old Testament the rest at Elim was as important for Israel as the march to the Red Sea. Hence the Disciples went into the desert to rest awhile.

This has a wholesome influence upon us. The times of rest fit us for doing a better job. Or, they may lead us into becoming loafers.

There are those who may take this time of a vacation for pleasure taking. Or personal destruction - or relaxation at home.

recreation. Would Christ share in this. Would he walk with you in this time that you are resting.

There is something that is called rhythm of the Christian life. For the Christian life is going into the presence of God - from the presence of men! And coming out into the presence of men from the presence of God. It is like the rhythm of sleep and work. We cannot work unless we have time for rest.

And sleep will not come unless we have worked until we are tired.

There are always dangers in constant activity. The first is, no man can work without rest. And no man can live the Christian life unless he gives himself time with God.

This is true - a man must make time for God. It may be that the whole trouble in our lives - is that we give God no opportunity to speak to us. We do not know how to be still and listen. We give God no time to recharge our spiritual energy. No time when we wait upon him. How can we shoulder life's burdens when we have no contact with him.

A second danger that I see is -- there may be the danger of too much withdrawal. In a vacation time, or in your devotional time with God. A person may spend devotional time with God, and time in prayer - but they may not go out and work for God. It is the rhythm of the Christian life, that you go into the secret place with God, and then go out into the marketplace with men.

Now this is what Jesus meant - the crowds saw Jesus and his men going away. Now this place was about 4 miles across by boat. It was 10 miles around the top of the lake on foot. On a windless day, or when the wind was contrary - the boat might take some time. And an energetic person might be able to walk around the top of the lake and be there before the boat arrived. And that seems to be exactly what happened. When Jesus stepped out - the crowd that he thought he'd get a little peace from were waiting.

The rest, Jesus so much desired, and which he had so well earned was denied. They wanted so much what he alone could give them.

Now Matthew said that Jesus wanted to get away from the crowd. And in the 14th chapter, he told that this was immediately after the death of John the Baptist.

Anyone in service today, will feel something of the necessity for little brief times, if nothing else, for rest. In our society, we call it a vacation. Or maybe a day off.

Someone wrote a prayer for (tourists.) And said, Heavenly Father, look down upon your humble tourists, who travel this earth - mailing post cards, walking around in drip-dry underwear, with arm fulls of souvenirs. Hoping that their baggage will be at the next stop.

These tourists will go around looking for a good inexpensive restaurant.

A place where they can get a good meal, and the coffee is not too strong to drink.

Most people say, give us strength to visit museums and historic monuments, and to keep our weak flesh going. This prayer goes on to say - protect our wives from bargains they cannot afford. And lead them not into temptation, for they know not what they do.

This thing is most interesting - as it concludes. And when our trip is over, grant us the favor of finding someone who will look at our home movies and listen to our stories.

That really is some prayer for tourists. But it about sums up the way some gad about during the summertime. Now Christ advises his Disciples to take a vacation and they were all excited about this. They were going to take this trip for a little rest.

In our day, there are people who rejoice in the opportunity of having a little recreation, during the summer months. Some go to the lakes, some to the mountains, some to the seashore.

Many want to get out of the city heat. And of course, with the President clamping down on air conditioning and other things that people claim as a luxury - they may well hasten to the watering places.

A Man grumbled About his Wife's Vacation Trip To SAN JUAN.
"She spent Three weeks shopping up here preparing for two."

And most of the people who go will certainly find someplace where they can relax. Luther used to take time off with his children. Thomas Chalmers used to go out and play with a kite for recreation.

But here is the busy Christ, who said to his busy Disciples - come ye apart awhile into the desert and rest yourselves.

Now I have declared this truth to you this morning. But there is one thing that I want to fix in your mind today -- that I think some of these watering place, and places where people spend their time, will bring temporal and eternal (destruction) to a multitude that no man can number.

There will be many who will depart into a far country. *Story outside London! Sport car - old man flew all way London - Fred can't young fella. How far St Albans? Could it fill for sure either. How don't know much do you, young man said 'if aspartan, you're Right, there young fella, But I'm not Lost!'*

I want to suggest to you three or four of these temptations that I think that vacation and summertime - as no other time, presents.

First, (leaving piety at home). There are people who are apt to go in every direction and leave all of their religion back home.

There are some folks today who go away on a vacation -- they (take care) of the dog, the cat, and the canary bird. And the turtle, and the goldfish. And whatever else. And a few precious plants that are half dead. And some hanging baskets maybe.

They get somebody to take care of these - but the temptation will be to leave their religion in the home. When they have pulled the blinds down, bolted the door, and they'll come back and find that their religion is starved. And is stark dead.

From my observation, there is no surplus of religion, at the lakes, the ocean, the mountains. I never knew anyone who really found a lot of religion down at a beach cottage. It is generally the case, that on the Lord's Day, there is more of a celebration than any other day. Sunday becomes a fun day. It is an excursion day, a fishing day.

And I might say, that even some Deacons and some leaders in the church, who are trying to be consistently at home - sometimes, when the Sabbath comes around, and they are at Niagara Falls. Or they are on Skyline Drive. They'll take the day to themselves. And if they go to church, it might just be a little sacred parade.

And nobody knows that they are worshipping there. And they just forget the church on that day.

One of the toughest things that a person has to do - have you ever tried to be good and do good at one of these places. The whole air and the whole atmosphere is filled with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

in many places in their Christian role. And it will take until Christmas to get them straight.

The health of a great many people who go to these hot springs - they say it is an absolute necessity. Why not take along your Bible. And why not take an hour for sacred prayer everyday. And why not keep the Sabbath day holy - even though you will be denounced as a puritan. And let your morals and your mortal soul keep pace with your physical recreation.

Children's Sermon about Vacations - "Do you think God ever takes a vacation? He is always listening to our prayers." On little girl - "of course God goes on vacation" He went with me - Applause Credit to parents - Right "God is with you wherever you go"

Stay on the Rock of Ages - because this may be your last summer! And you want to make this vacation time a good vestibule for Heaven.

II. GAMBLING

Here is another vacation temptation. There are lots of people who hike it off to Las Vegas - and some hike it off to the horse races, to the car races, or wherever they can go. And do a little gambling. Now I never have known a man who would give himself to these pleasures wherever they were - that he ever gave very much to God.

But yet, there are people who will go to bull fights, and all sorts of things that bate them in America and across the world.

Atlantic City Mayor & no 3 officials went Jail July 27, 1989 graft, pay offs, Crooked - "Proceeding" is in Jail now same thing Poor suffering - state gets little from Board Walk gambling -

III. SACRIFICING PHYSICAL STRENGTH

destroy their health. Now there are folks who customarily go to bed - say 10 o'clock at night. But they take a vacation - and go off someplace. And do you know what they do - they sit up gossiping until 3 o'clock in the morning.

And when they are at home, on their jobs, they are very cautious about their health. But while they are away - they'll be mingling ice cream, lemonade, lobster salad, coconuts, until the juices in their body, lament and protest. *Watermelon, corn on cob*

There are delicate women and brainless men - who give themselves to Disco for half the night.

Did you know that thousands of men and women come back from these things - and are layed up with ailments that last them a life time. You know, as well as I do, that this is the truth.

John DEAN (Book) Blind Ambition - Chuck Colson confused Boredom, Boredom held like an iron anchor that had slipped out of the boat & snagged & dragged bottom

None of these people were standing around collecting dust!
Now - this is really a temptation - for you to say goodbye. I am going to have spend their time doing dumb stuff. a good time for a little while. And then I'll straighten things out when I come back to the office, or shop - and I'll work on my good health. And when you say to your health - you are going on vacation - it is a poor rule that will not work both ways.

B. 50:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom -

Your good health will leave you.

Now you know what Paul had for advice in a situation like that. If you will go and read what he said to the jailer - do thyself no harm.

IV. HASTY ALLIANCES

I think this is another temptation. That people quickly - in our society, it is so artificial. That there is no sure judgement of character that can be formed or found. And there are those people who form a companionship in such circumstances as they go from place to place. And they are taken away by the glitter and the splash - and whether it is the ball room or wherever it is, they forget (common sense.)

There are others who may be taken up with a gaily painted yacht. And find - well, here is someone we'll associate with. We'll have to find a character that can stand the test of the great struggles of human life. And the great battle of life, you want something stronger than lace, gold, a grasshopper, or a butterfly. Now some men and women who are soft-handed and soft-headed, and who are turned by a little perfume. And they wave goodbye at things at the very foundation of life, and they turn to some little conversation that moves them. And so they make some alliances - that will somehow influence them in this world and in the world to come.

Judges 14:1-7 A mighty Bit the dust He handled his seizure "Carelessly"

Remember Angel said the purpose of his life "Begin to Deliver Israel" - He pleases himself, getting sidetracked. "Then Samson went down to Timnath & I SAW A Woman" 1st recorded words from Samson lips - He focused on the wrong objective! "Now went Samson to EA ZA & saw there a harlot" De Lihah "To Valley of Sorek love a woman" Delilah "Play Boy - Samson's Baby" "I can handle his seizure"

Almost everyone who starts out on a vacation in the summer time - may carry along some reading material. Maybe it is a book out of the library or off of a book stand. But if you are not careful, there is a temptation to carry along a little trash. And some very intelligent people in June, July, and August - spend their time reading things that they would never read in other months. And so they sit in their hotels, cottages, etc. - reading things that would make them blush if they knew that you knew what was in the book.

Visual Stimulation - Phyllis Diller said she had the 1st peek - A - boo Dress; Men would "peek" - she would "Boo" - Philistine woman good

I know what they will say - but you must have intellectual recreation. Yes, and so they need to take this along to these places. There are many good books. And that will be restful and helpful. And it is just like food. You can eat some good vegetables and feel well. But this literary poison is something like letting the mice and the frogs get in. They will corrupt your lives. And there are people who will read all of this stuff, and throw it in their baggage - and say, now this is something that I just do once a year.

Did you know, that every hour of every day, you stand between your death and between life.

VI. ALCOHOL

Now this is another thing that is one of the vacation temptations. Because it is fashionable for men and women to drink. And there are those who have this time and if they are not careful, they will become intoxicated. She may be a graduate of a great university. She is the daughter of some man - but she is a drunk. Now you may have a larger vocabulary than I have - but you may regard this as being merry or festive, or exhilarated. But people who go off at this time, and get tipsy, Satan has three or four grades down which he takes men to destruction. One man he takes up - and through one spree puts him into eternal darkness. That is a rare case. Seldom indeed, can you find a man who will be such a fool as that.

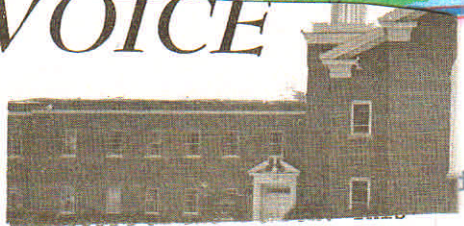
VII. Take God along into your plans -

When a man goes down to destruction, Satan brings him to a plane. It is almost a level. The depression is so slight that you can hardly see it. The man does not

Dr. H. E. Luccock - experienced of catching a train getting back for a short ride - suburban home - speed by home station - called conductor. Taken Express - road on next track - ride 100 miles, speed right, far from there just a little. Many people have waked up find self some fix - start out some habit, thought could stop - discover on through train - destruction slave.

The first mile is made a sherry. The third mile or the second mile - may be a little bit of punch. Or it maybe some ale. Or maybe a little brandy. And it gets steeper and steeper. And the man gets frightened and he says - oh, let me get off. But no, says the conductor - this is an express train. We can't stop. Will it gets to the grand central

VOICE



need not be the case at FBC. That we all need a vacation from the regular routine of normal work is certain. But to take a vacation away from God and his church is detrimental to our spiritual growth as Christians.

With this thought in mind, I think it would be appropriate to share with you some thoughts written a number of years ago by Halford Luccock. He told of attending a graduation ceremony where a number of graduates graduated in absentia.

"Isn't one of the biggest handicaps of the churches the obvious one that too many members are every Sunday literally 'in absentia?' They are not present. Recall that as a prelude to the biggest event in the history of the church, its Birthday, Pentecost, we read: 'They went up to the upper room... and all these with one accord, devoted themselves to prayer.' That is the indispensable prelude to any real birthday, to any new birth--for the church to be in accord in one place, instead of seventeen places with seventeen varieties of non-accord.

If the habits of that company in the upper room had been like the habits of multitudes in our churches today, the record would be a sorry entry like this:

The meeting was called for the first day of the week, but so many things interfered that of the company of 120, only 40 could be present. Peter and his wife bought a cottage on Lake Galilee and were away from the hot city over the weekend. Bartholomey had guests and of course could not come. Phillip and his family

Radio personality Paul Harvey tells the story of how an Eskimo kills a wolf. The account is grisly, yet it offers fresh insight into the consuming, self-destructive nature of sin.

"First the Eskimo coats his knife blade with animal blood and allows it to freeze. Then he adds another layer of blood, and another, until the blade is completely concealed by frozen blood.

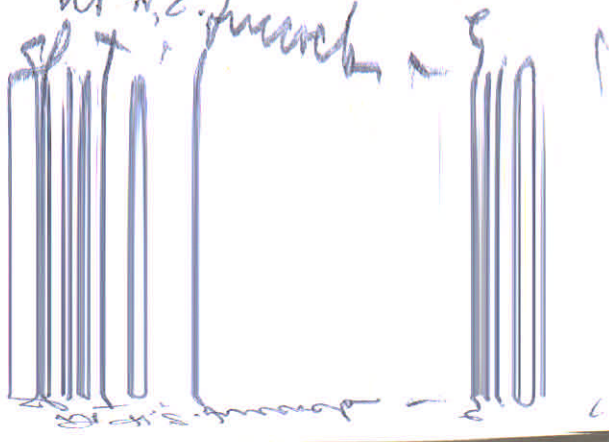
"Next, the hunter fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. When a wolf follows his sensitive nose to the source of the scent and discovers the bait he licks it, tasting the fresh-frozen blood. He begins to lick faster, more and more vigorously, lapping the blade until the keen edge is bare. Feverishly now, harder and harder the wolf licks the blade in the Arctic night. So great becomes his craving for blood that the wolf does not notice the razor sharp sting of the naked blade on his tongue nor does he recognize the instant at which his insatiable thirst is being satisfied by his own warm blood. His carnivorous appetite just craves more--until the dawn finds him dead in the snow!"⁴

Samson. He pandered with leisure and played with the wrong crowd and messed around with the bait so much he could not turn around. At that point God had become totally unreal to him. With God blocked out, "He told her all that was in his heart." No wonder we read that he didn't even know the Spirit of God had departed from him. I think how great it would have been if Samson had suddenly stopped, dashed out of that place and into the street, and lifted up his arms and screamed, "O God, I am so weak--so near the ledge. Give me the strength I need right now. Help me to soar again!" If only the man had called for help. If only--

The Inevitable Consequences

Within a matter of seconds, "The Philistines seized him." The very first action they took against him was to gouge out both his eyes. Why, of course--his EYES, the gateway to lust! Those Philistines knew him better than he knew himself. They didn't want any further trouble in Philistia from this weak shell of a man who could not resist temptation. So they blinded the eagle; he never flew again, not like before.

J. Oswald Sanders, in his book *Robust in Faith*, titles his chapter on Samson, "The Champion Who Became a Clown."³ The Philistines dumped Samson in a prison--". . . and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison" (v. 21).



Dr. H. E. Luccock - Explained of Catching a Train before
Short ride - Suburban home -12-
Taken Express - just a little

Express - had on night track - take 1000 water, hand light, far from then
just a little.
Many people have waked up find self some fig - start out some habit,
Thought could stop - discover on through train - destruction shame.

The first mile is made a sherry. The third mile or the second mile - may be
a little bit of punch. Or it maybe some ale. Or maybe a little brandy. And it
gets steeper and steeper. And the man gets frustrated and he says - oh, let me
get off. But no, says the conductor - this is an express train. We can't stop
until it gets to the grand central.

Summer months usually bring a decline in attendance and financial support of the church. This need not be the case at FBC. That we all need a vacation from the regular routine of normal work is certain. But to take a vacation away from God and his church is detrimental to our spiritual growth as Christians.

With this thought in mind, I think it would be appropriate to share with you some thoughts written a number of years ago by Halford Luccock. He told of attending a graduation ceremony where a number of graduates graduated in absentia.

"Isn't one of the biggest handicaps of the churches the obvious one that too many members are every Sunday literally 'in absentia'? They are not present. Recall that as a prelude to the biggest event in the history of the church, its birthday, Pentecost, we read: 'They went up to the upper room... and all these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer.' That is the indispensable prelude to any real birthday, to any new birth--for the church to be in accord in one place, instead of seventeen places with seventeen varieties of non-accord.

If the habits of that company in the upper room had been like the habits of multitudes in our churches today, the record would be a sorry entry like this:

The meeting was called for the first day of the week, but so many things interfered that of the company of 120, only 40 could be present. Peter and his wife bought a cottage on Lake Galilee and were away from the hot city over the weekend. Bartholomey had guests and of course could not come. Phillip and his family

had been up late the night before and overslept. Andrew had a business conference about a new fishing boat. James had to stay at home and cut the grass, which had grown long.

No Pentecost!

See you in church.

tells the story of how an Eskimo et it offers fresh insight into the of sin.

blade with animal blood and another layer of blood, and unconcealed by frozen blood.

in the ground with the blade

up. When a wolf follows his sensitive nose to the source of the scent and discovers the bait he licks it, tasting the fresh-frozen blood. He begins to lick faster, more and more vigorously, lapping the blade until the keen edge is bare. Feverishly now, harder and harder the wolf licks the blade in the Arctic night. So great becomes his craving for blood that the wolf does not notice the razor sharp sting of the naked blade on his tongue nor does he recognize the instant at which his insatiable thirst is being satisfied by his own warm blood. His carnivorous appetite just craves more—until the dawn finds him dead in the snow!"⁴

Samson. He pandered with leisure and played with the wrong crowd and messed around with the bait so much he could not turn around. At that point God had become totally unreal to him. With God blocked out, "He told her all that was in his heart." No wonder we read that he didn't even know the Spirit of God had departed from him. I think how great it would have been if Samson had suddenly stopped, dashed out of that place and into the street, and lifted up his arms and screamed, "O God, I am so weak—so near the ledge. Give me the strength I need right now. Help me to soar again!" If only the man had called for help. If only—

The Inevitable Consequences

Within a matter of seconds, "The Philistines seized him." The very first action they took against him was to gouge out both his eyes. Why, of course—his EYES, the gateway to lust! Those Philistines knew him better than he knew himself. They didn't want any further trouble in Philistia from this weak shell of a man who could not resist temptation. So they blinded the eagle; he never flew again, not like before.

J. Oswald Sanders, in his book Robust in Faith, titles his chapter on Samson, "The Champion Who Became a Clown."³ The Philistines dumped Samson in a prison—"... and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison" (v. 21).

But I would challenge you to partake of the living fountain of water, of the pure water, as clear as crystal from under the throne of God. Now I know all of the watering places are available to us. AND it takes us only a few minutes to get to the beach, to the river, etc. And we can come and get this without money and without price. The Gospel has peace, pardon, forgiveness, hope, comfort, life and Heaven. Everyone that thirsteth, come to this watering place. We need to come Bethesda this morning. Where the sick, the lame, the trouble, and the dying crowd were encouraged to step in - the angel of the covenant this morning stirs the waters. We would invite you to step into it. Some of you are too weak to take a step in that direction. Then, we would beseech the Holy Spirit to take you by the arm and to lead you into it.

God Never Vacates

TWO WEEKS WITHOUT GOD

I dreamed that God took a vacation,
He did not say where He would go.
He just packed His Spirit and left us,
Not knowing I would need Him so.

He, wearied and tired of much praying
And listening to every weak plea—
Two weeks were just what He's been
needing
Away from the world and from me.

Just then I was faced with a crisis—
My heart was in deepest despair
My pastor, my friends, nor my neigh-
bors
Could help with an answer to prayer.

Oh, how I just longed for His presence,
The touch of His soothing, calm hand,
To feel He was there close beside me
And know that He would understand.

I woke up to find out I was dreaming
And fell on my knees and I cried.
Oh, how I thanked God up in Heaven
That He was still here by my side.

Again it is time for vacations.
I may go by land, sea, or air,
Wherever I am on the Lord's day,
I know I shall worship Him there.
—Sibyl Staggs Borger.

The pastor appointed the fo
8:30 Morning Service
8:15 Training Union

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."—Rev. 2:10.

- I. **Let God Go With You On Your Vacation . . .**
 1. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
 2. Take Bibles and quarterlies—keep up your daily family worship.
- II. **Write To Your Church . . .**
 1. Every Monday morning, address an envelope to your pastor enclosing bulletins and other printed material you collected on Sunday. Make notes of good things you observe.
- III. **Don't Rob God To Take A Vacation . . .**
 1. Leave your offerings at the church before you go away.
 2. Or, mail your offerings with the bulletins each Monday morning.
- IV. **Secure Your Own Replacement . . .**
 1. Whatever your job in the church, find someone to take your place before you leave.
 2. No office should be left vacant while you are on vacation.
- V. **Return To Church As Soon As You Return Home . . .**
 1. Start right back to all church services as soon as you get home.
 2. Have a word to say in class, union, circle or prayer meeting about your fellowship with other Christians while on vacation.
- VI. **Why All This? . . .**
 1. Because you are a Christian . . . and you want to be loyal to Christ—all the time.
 2. Because your soul needs re-creation just as much as your body and your mind.
 3. Because you do not want a "summer slump" in your church.
 4. Because God does not take a vacation from you.

THIS SUMMER. TAKE GOD INTO YOUR PLANS!