

In The Good Old Summertime!

School is out! Vacation time is here! Outdoor activity, camping, gardening, traveling, and various other activities which generally are a part of this season now with us. It is a wonderful season during which many of us are able to get outdoors and do things we do not get to do, and go places we do not get to go, during other seasons. We need to remember, however, that the true practice of Christianity is not seasonal. Paul told Timothy, "Be instant in season, out of season" (II Tim. 4:2). With this in mind carefully note and remember this Summer, and at all times, the following divine advice which is not seasonal.

1. **DRESS MODESTLY** (I Tim. 2:9; Rom. 12:2). Christians need to be careful that, in our desire to be comfortable during the season, we do not become immodest in dress. We need to use wisdom and good judgment in the way we dress during this season, and at all times.
2. **BE FAITHFUL TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE CHURCH** (Heb. 10:25). As we travel, we need to make plans, wherever we are to meet with a faithful congregation. Acts 21:4 says, "And finding disciples, we tarried ..." First century disciples didn't just "pull off the side of the road" and commune. They found the church where they traveled and assembled.
3. **DON'T ROB GOD** (Malachi 3:8). We need to be careful that we do not spend on gasoline, lodging, souvenirs, recreation, etc. that which we should give to the Lord (Matt. 6:33; I Cor. 16:1-2). It is wise, before going out of town, to leave your contribution with the local contribution.

Have a great summer! Here's hoping it will be safe, pleasant, refreshing, and spiritually strengthening to you.

- Charles C. Pugh III (Chester Bulletin Archives) -

YOUR LIFE IS AN OPEN BOOK

Many of our "modern" axioms are not modern. In fact, there are many cliches and "sayings" that originate from the Bible. The axiom, "Your life is an open book" is nothing more than a rephrasing of 2 Corinthians 3:2: "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." Truly no axiom could be as thought-provoking in aiding each of us in self-examination.

Upon contemplation of this metaphorical way to view self, one must consider what is read by others, by oneself, and especially by God about our lives. For example:

- Do others read of good things or evil?
- Do others understand the purpose of your "book?"
- Is your "book" a reflection of Christ?
- Is Christ the author of your "book?"
- Would others view your "book" as fictitious, or real and genuine?
- Is your "book" filled with lies, distortion, and slander, or with truth, honesty, and love?
- What chapters of your "book" do you wish you could change or relive?
- What will be said in the final chapter of your "book?"
- Finally, is your story written in the Book of all books - the Book of Life? (Rev. 20:15).

Indeed, our life is like an open book, and often we are the only spiritual book this careless world will ever read. Thus, may we endeavor to write in our books the story and life of Jesus.

- John W. Moore, *Bible Artides*, Dripping Springs Church of Christ, Dripping Springs, TX -

The question is not whether we will die, but how we will live. - Joan Borysenko -

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. The Covid-19 restrictions apply (masks & distancing).

Don't Forget! Our Sunday evening service this evening (and every Sunday) at 5:30 p.m.

CELEBRATION PARTY: For Ethan Haught (grandson of Skip & Sue), next Saturday, June 19th, 2 to 6 p.m. at our Fellowship Hall. Ethan has been invited to play soccer for the Greater Allegheny Division of Penn State.

PANTRY: Hot dogs and buns.

CONTINUE TO SEND CARDS: Cheryl Renfro Walker (Cheryl has cancer), 229 Belgium Lane, Chester, WV 26034. Josh Morrison, 428 Burnside Rd., Canonsburg, PA 15317.

SICK & SHUT-IN: CITY HOSPITAL: Beulah Walker. **AT HOME:** Tim Martin, Shirley Beagle, Jim Hadley, Barb DeLong, David McCoy, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Emma Rine, Alex Harless, Rick Beck. **FOX of ELO (Rehab Suites):** Marilyn Miller. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Sarah Miller (Room 6). **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore (Room 210). **IN TENNESSEE:** Steve Higginbotham. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

Character: Don't Leave Home Without It

Good character is that quality which makes one dependable, whether being watched or not. The noblest of the arts and capital prize in the game of life is "Character."

Reputation is what men think we are; character is **what God knows us to be and what we know ourselves to be**. Reputation is the veneer; character is what is on the inside. Reputation is what one has before the footlights; character is what one is in the dark.

Character determines destiny. The fundamental principle in character building is sacrifice. Character is property - it is the noblest of possessions. Among the rarest riches a man can possess is his character. When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, much is lost; but when character is lost, all is lost.

Character, which took a lifetime to build, is often destroyed in a single act. When a renowned banker was asked what he considered the best bank collateral, he replied, "Character." Character is like the foundation of a house—it is below the surface but holds everything else up. **No nation can rise higher than the character of its people.**

Every man is the architect of his own character. Youth and beauty fade; character endures forever.

- Author Unknown (via *The Green Proclaimer*, Green Plain Church of Christ, Hazel, KY) -