

## **8. Maintaining the Work of the Lord in the Summertime Will Build up the Church**

Summer is a fun time in the hearts of most Americans. Travel, vacationing, going home, camping—all of these increase in amount and fervor during the summer months. It is easy to lose focus on our spiritual and religious obligations. Perhaps most of us can even recite 1 Cor. 15:58: “58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” This admonition by Paul has been a cornerstone to this *Building up the Church* series of lessons. It is especially applicable in the summertime when strong influences may cause us to slack up in our efforts to serve the Lord.

By carefully reading this passage, even the skeptic would know that phrases like *stand firm, let nothing move you*, and *always give yourselves fully to the Lord*, leave no room for taking a vacation from the Lord’s work. With the summer upon us, perhaps a few suggestions or tips for maintaining our spiritual service in summertime are in order, and perhaps they will help each one of us to build up the body of Christ.

### ***Don’t Slack up on Giving***

As servants of the Lord, we must maintain our contribution to the Lord’s work over the summer months. The apostle Paul tells of our obligation: “On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.” The work of your local congregation depends on a predictable contribution for each of the members. Churches that we visit while vacationing are not expecting a contribution. The tip for the summer is this: *Let us be sure to contribute as we have prospered for each Lord’s Day even if we have to give before we leave or after we come back.*

### ***Attend the Assembly on the Lord’s Day***

We must attend the services of the church on the first day of the week even though we are traveling. The command is clear: In Heb 10: 25, we learn: “25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” It is so easy while on the road to skip church. However, the practice of attending while traveling or vacationing in a far away place is a richly rewarding experience. We meet new Christian brothers and sisters. We understand the bond of love, peace, and unity that binds the Lord’s church together wherever it exists. Most importantly, we fulfill our Christian service to attend on the first day of the week.

If you need help finding a church when traveling, try the Internet at [www.church-of-christ.org/churches/](http://www.church-of-christ.org/churches/) or the book: *Churches of Christ in the United States*, compiled by Mac Lynn.

The tip for the summer is this: *Whether at home or away this summer, attend the Lord’s Day worship every first day of the week.*

### ***Do Not Let Summertime Activities Interfere with Attending***

Do not let Sunday activities interfere with our attending the evening service. Daylight savings time makes the summer conducive to long Sunday activities. An extended round at the golf

course, just another hour in the boat at the lake, or a long summer's drive in the country can mean that we will miss the evening service. The temptation is great and besides, it is summertime. Let us remember the words of Jesus in Matt 26:41: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." The tip for the summer is this. *We must resist the temptation to let the worldly affairs—especially entertainment and recreation—interfere with our attending the evening worship during the summer.*

### ***Do Not Let Visitors Keep Us from Attending***

Do not let visitors from out of town keep us from attending the services of the church. In the summer, we will usually have many visitors in our homes from out of town—mostly family or old friends. What a great opportunity we have. Instead of staying home with our visitors, which in the least will set a bad example for them, why not invite them to come with us to the worship services of the Lord. We will benefit by being at worship, and they will benefit by having an opportunity to hear and learn the truth. Early in their visit, we should let them know that we expect to be leaving for church at the set time. This will forewarn them. The tip for the summer is this: *When we have visitors, let us bring them to worship with us.*

### ***Conclusion***

Following these summer tips for maintaining the work of the Lord will keep us in service all summer. Remember the teaching: “. . . because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” Let each of us put the Lord first this summer in work, in play, and in worship. Apply these tips to your personal life this summer and build up the church of the Lord:

- *Let us be sure to contribute as we have prospered for each Lord's Day even if we have to give before we leave or after we come back.*
- *Whether at home or away this summer, attend the Lord's Day worship every first day of the week.*
- *We must resist the temptation to let the worldly affairs—especially entertainment and recreation—interfere with our attending the evening worship during the summer.*
- *When we have visitors, let us bring them to worship with us.*