

Introduction:

May is my favorite month for various reasons, school being out, warm weather, longer daylight hours, days still getting longer. Even the beginning of grass mowing season, and gardening season are all positives in my book. So, lets take this opportunity to think make some spiritual applications based on "May."

I) The Feeling of Success

A) With each school year there is a sense of completion.

1. As a student the moving on to a higher level, or graduation.
2. As a parent the sense of making it through another school year.

B) There are points of success, of completion in our lives.

1. The point where one matures in certain aspects of life.

1 Corinthians 2:4 *And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.*

2. The point where we are not impressed with the superficial things of life but understand what is truly important.
3. Our priorities change as we go through life.

1 Corinthians 14:20 *Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in*

understanding be mature.

- a. The emphasis at Corinth was on miraculous gifts but those gifts were not permanent.
 - b. The gifts were not the reason to obey the Gospel but were to confirm the word of God.
 - c. Those gifts did not save but were given to the saved.
4. There are many levels in life which gives us the sense of completion- graduating, getting married, children, etc.

II) Time to Go to Work

A) Generally, May was the beginning of real work.

1. I remember the card Mike got me for my High School graduation. It said something to the effect: How would you like a job where you get all holidays off, get to goof off all day, and have plenty of time to do what you want. That's what you had, now that you graduated, it's time to go to work.
2. Summer time for me mean working in hay, tobacco, and doing other farm chores.
3. By the time summer was over, I was ready to go back to school.

B) God's people always have work to do.

1. The children of Israel entering Canaan.

Joshua 1:13 "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.'

- a. Yet they had work to do- go into Canaan and fight, divide the land among the tribes.

- b. They had to teach their children the word of God.

Deuteronomy 6:7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. **8** "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- c. They had to observe all the law of God, worship God, offer sacrifices.
- d. The land of Canaan was a place of work.

- 2. Notice the number of times Paul in his letters to Christians, tells them there is more to do.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **14** I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; **2** for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

- 3. Even when Paul was not addressing some specific issue at a place, he wrote to encourage them to do more and more.
 - a. Christians are to grow in their knowledge of God's word.

Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

- b. Think of Paul's instructions to Timothy.

"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.... Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all." (1 Timothy 4:13, 15)

"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

3. Christians are to be growing and producing fruit.

John 15:2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

John 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

4. What would Paul say in a letter to me?

III) Time of Freedom

A) May with the end of school is the beginning of freedom for many.

1. Vacation time, more time for leisure, outside activities.

2. Perhaps freedom from peers and social pressure which often goes along with school.

B) Freedom is connected with Christ

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

1. There is freedom from – idolatry, human traditions, sin, the Law of Moses.

2 Timothy 2:24 *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

2. One of the most profound statements I ever heard was “remember what it was like before you obeyed the Gospel”. Remember the fear of dying.

3. There is also the freedom to serve God.

Romans 6:18 *And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.*

- a. Remember the theme of **Leviticus** "*I am holy, you be holy.*"
- b. In Christ we are vessels of honor in His house.

IV) Dangers which come with May

A) Getting too busy for God.

1. With the extra day light and warmer temperatures there is more to do- mow yards, garden, fish, vacations, etc.
2. It is easy for people to quit reading their Bible, miss Bible Classes and Worship, forget about their brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. We need to remember what comes first.

Matthew 6:33 "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*"

- a. A while back as we were observing the Lord's Supper I opened the fruit of the vine part first. This created a problem as I had to open the unleavened bread upside down.
- b. A lot of people are living their lives upside down.

B) Misusing one's freedom

1. One can develop some bad habits during the summer time - sleeping too late.
2. There are sins which are more prevalent during this time of the year.
 - a. Immodest clothing - which is not a female issue only.

1 Timothy 2:9a *in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel,*

- b. Sexual sins as young people are home alone with friends and temptation arises.

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

- c. This is not just a problem of school age children as many adults fall prey to sexual temptations.

Conclusion:

As May begins let us enjoy the time with family, the day light, the weather, and its freedom. Let us use it to recharge our batteries and serve God better.