

May Is Here!

There is a scene in a movie where the lead character gets excited because the new phone book is out. He quickly thumbs through the pages until he finds the one with his name on it, then exclaims “once your name is in the phone book anything is possible.” That is pretty much how I feel about the month of May. It is without a doubt my favorite month of the year. January through April can be cold, dreary, and unpredictable; June through August are hot, September is ok, October has Halloween and candy, November has Thanksgiving which is really good, and December has Christmas which is also good, but May is special. The cold weather of winter is behind us, the temperature tends to stay somewhere between the sixties and 80’s. Day light, even in the Central Time Zone lasts until 8 pm and getting longer. Everything is green and growing. It is the month when school gets out and our children are at home! I enjoyed knowing they were safe and everyday I would get to see them. For these reasons and more, May is my favorite month. I also believe there are some good and bad things related to May. Let explain the good.

When in school, my brother and I would count down the weeks until school was out for the summer. Our count down started around week thirteen which was pretty far out but by the time we got down to week 4 we could see the light at the end of the tunnel. There are many things in life like this. We anticipate good happening and it seems to take forever to arrive but once it comes the waiting was well worth it. Waiting to graduation, get out of school, getting married, having a child, purchasing a house for the first time, and getting to retire all require time to pass. Heaven is one of those things we look forward to but will we ever see it? The time of enduring the trials of this life can be long and hard but eventually those trials will end. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

A sense of accomplishment often comes with May. Finished one level of schooling and advances to the next level. We would get our report cards with

those final grades and then know we were all caught up with our studies until fall. Knowing a job is complete is good. But there was also the realization another job was about to begin. Personally, after I got half way grown, summer meant working on the farm. Believe me when I say the farm sometimes made me look forward to going back to school. The point being we always have another task to do, another job to start, another level to reach. When one obeys the Gospel, they begin a life of learning and doing. As Paul wrote in 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.": The New American Standard used to read "that you increase more and more." There is always more to be done in one's life. A person obeys the Gospel then increases their knowledge and abilities to serve the Lord. The preacher is to grow in his abilities as Paul wrote 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.)

To me, May means freedom. No more school work, late night studying, exams, term papers, getting up early to get to class, and spending hours in those classes, all of that ended with May. Perhaps it is this sense of freedom which draws man to Christ. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). In Christ we are free from the burden of sin and its punishment, idolatry with other forms of false religion, and human traditions. In Christ we are free to lives serving God with an eternal reward. "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." (Romans 6:17-18)

There are some dangers which comes with May and the summer season. Some people in their desire to enjoy the warm weather, the extra day light hours, and vacations, forget about serving God. They quit reading their Bibles, miss services where they could attend, and stop being involved with their brothers

and sisters in Christ. Our first priority should be the kingdom of God, Matthew 6.33.

Another danger is using our freedom to do things we shouldn't be doing. Invariably in my younger days, I would stay up late at night. As the summer went on, I would develop this schedule where I would sleep during the day and stay up at night. I wasn't working at night; I was simply watching television. This schedule did not work well on the farm and my dad was not very accommodating to my sleep schedule. So, I would have to break that habit and get back to a regular sleep schedule. My point is the freedom of deciding when I went to bed and get up caused me to develop some bad habits.

The freedom of summer can encourage some folks to sin. Immodest clothing can be seen, or unseen, more during the hot summer months, sexual temptations increase as young people socialize more and are alone together. These are just two areas we need to be on guard during the summer months.