

Summertime, Summertime, Sum, Sum, Summertime

Some Things Not Affected by Change

James 1:17

It's summertime. They say the living is easy. Sometimes it is, sometimes it isn't. One thing for sure about summertime is that there is more coming and going than usual. School is out, the weather is warm, and thoughts of travel are in the air. The fact is, we live in a much more mobile society that we did several years back. Times are indeed changing. The entire year has come to present challenges to the work of the church. How do we face summertime and the yearlong travel that has come to be a part of how we live? How do we serve an unchanging God in such times of change?

Times Change, And In Some Ways, So Must We

- Culture has many shifting features, many of them are not matters of right or wrong—just different things develop as time passes.
- We must adapt as needed to a variety of things (cf. Rom. 14:1-10; I Cor. 9:19-23)
- We need to biblically evaluate the present nature of the Karns congregation in matters of judgment and make sure we are conducting our work efficiently and expediently (I Cor. 10:23)
- Our mobile culture challenges us to find creative ways to insure the inclusion of all members and the development of effective team strategies (Ex. 18:14-27).

Some Things, However, Do Not Change And We Must Be Sure To Preserve And Treasure Them

- The way of salvation, nonnegotiable aspects of worship, the body/family nature of the church, and the structure of biblical organization must all be guarded and prized (Jude 3b)
- The fundamental principles of loving God and neighbor, faith, justice, and mercy must also be practiced in concert and with determination (cf. Mk. 12:29-31; Matt. 7:12; Matt. 23:23)
- Surely, a very special thing to remember in our era of mobility is that we are brothers and sisters (Matt. 12:46-50)
 - Times of separation must not be allowed to hinder our progress in the common cause we share (Eph. 4:16)
 - We can find ways to mitigate the affects of distance and busy lives.
 - With a zealous love for the Lord, we can and must become more efficient and productive.
 - In such things we must always remember the personal touch (I Cor. 12:24-26)

What changes are in order? Certainly, we must find better ways to connect and stay connected. We cannot afford to leave anyone behind. Neither can we allow the challenge Jesus has given us to receive less than our best. Let us each be proactive and insistent that we will meet changing times with creative, committed, biblical solutions!