

Being Mindful Of Our Entertainment

12-16-12

Scripture reveals to us that our Lord often had the need to escape the pressure of his time. Places such as Mark 6:31-32 and Luke 5:16 show us this. Too, we know that the Sabbath was created as a day of rest from our labors (Genesis 2:3). We can say that there is a need and an authority to “re-create” ourselves. But to do so, we must be mindful of our recreations; both the purpose of recreation and the activities or entertainment.

First, we need to determine the purpose of recreation. Consider what we once called the American Dream; a job, a home and a car. But perhaps that has changed, at least for some, who now have the dream of easy money and escaping from work altogether. First we must find that Scripture is clear: work is good AND necessary. There are a number of statements about this in the Bible. Ecclesiastes 3:9-13 teaches us that we are to find our joy in our work. Ephesians 6:5-9 commands us to work as though it is for the Lord. Finally, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 shows us that those who would not work are to be marked as walking contrary to the faith of Christ.

The Christian life is not in agreement with the modern American dream. Our life says that we are to work with the idea of being rewarded at the “end of the day” (Matthew 20:1-16, 2 John 1:8). Through a Christian mind, we do not work to recreate, but we recreate to energize ourselves to work for the Lord

Second, we need to consider what we do to entertain ourselves. An ancient writer, Tertullian, wrote that Christians should not attend the Roman games. The games were quite bloodthirsty, and every form of immorality was present. He said *“Why, the rejection of these amusements is the chief sign to them that a man has adopted the Christian faith”*¹

We have so many choices in recreation and entertainment; TV or Movies, Literature or media, the Internet or Sports. How do we choose what is right? Is it a sin to see an R-Rated movie? Or to read Harry Potter or the Da Vinci Code? How about watching a boxing match? The answer is: Maybe!

Jesus told us that “if your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.” (Matthew 5:29). We need to set a standard, and even then, to discern that it might not be something that stands in stone. We must be sure to remove all objects of covetousness, lust or temptation. We have to use discernment to know the difference.

Tertullian’s Final Thoughts - “Would you have something of blood too? You have Christ’s”

¹ *De Speculas*, chapter 24