

## 2 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT2)

***Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.***

Okay, here is the setting. It's Thursday night and Jesus shares the Passover with the disciples knowing that the next morning the religious leaders will come and arrest Him and crucify Him. So, what if Jesus said after He shared the Passover with His disciples, *"Hey guys, you know what, the Passover is this weekend, and since it's a holiday, I don't think I will get crucified this weekend."*

You may read that and think, *"What in the world are you talking about?"*

But think about it, how many times do we, as a church, schedule everyday church things around holidays, or even as the school year is coming to an end, and the kids are off for summer, do we schedule church things around this?

I remember one year Christmas was on a Sunday and the question was, *"Should we have church this Sunday, because it's Christmas?"* That would be like saying, *"Hey Steve, it's your birthday, so we will spend it at home celebrating it and not come to your house. If you have time maybe you can stop by."* Fortunately, we did have a service on Christmas that Sunday morning.

Yet how many will schedule or even cancel things going on in the church because it's summer break? What, people don't need Jesus during the summer, and we don't need to be spiritually equipped during the summer, or the lost don't need to be saved during the summer?

What about Memorial Day or Mother's Day or Father's Day or the Fourth of July or it's getting so bad that, what about Groundhog day. (Yes, I am being sarcastic here) What does a man-made holiday have to do with church and church functions? Or think about it this way. If those holidays never existed, then we would not even think about changing, or even canceling church services. Yet we are allowing the world to control our churches and what we do, or don't do as a church.

*"But the people won't come or hardly anyone will come because of the holidays, or they are on vacation in the summer"* Once again, these are excuses allowing the world to control our church daily functions. And I do understand that during the summer families do go on vacation, but if you really think about it, how many really do go on vacation, and when they do, are they gone for the entire summer, or are all on vacation at the same time? No, if people don't come to church because it's the summer or it's a holiday, then it's a heart issue and not really a holiday issue. And the question is, did they learn this in church?

Therefore, even more so, shouldn't we be encouraging one another as Christians, and not allow the things of this earth to take precedence over the church, because these things can deter our

brothers and sisters in a form of backsliding as they are allowing these things to cause them to get lazy and using them as excuses not to go to church?

We sing: “And the things of earth will grow strangle dim” ... unless it’s a holiday.

† **2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (NLT2)** *And what union can there be between God’s temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: “I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”*