

## *Choices, Choices, Choices*

“What do you want to do today?”

Never before in the history of mankind have we had so many choices been open to us.

Want to read a book? King Solomon wrote, *Of making many books there is no end* (Ecclesiastes 12:12), and he wasn't kidding. According to Google, about 130 million books have been published, ten to fifteen percent of which are currently in print.

Would you rather watch television? There are well upwards of 500 (some say 1000) channels available to watch on cable/satellite television. If you prefer playing or watching sports, you have about 8000 indigenous sports and sporting games from which to choose.

Maybe you'd rather spend your time on the Internet. If so, there are currently 644 million websites you could investigate, one of which lists over 300 different hobbies people can pursue. (That list is obviously incomplete, as the comments section below the list suggests further additions.)

Every day brings another holiday to celebrate. Most people are familiar with Mother's Day and Memorial Day coming up this month. But there's a host of others, including “Star Wars Day” (“May the Fourth be with you”), “Clean Up Your Room Day” (May 10<sup>th</sup>. Get out the shovels. Call in an industrial sized dumpster. It's time for everyone to clean your rooms! Parents, too!), and “Don't Fry Friday” (on the Friday before Memorial weekend, to remind people about the dangers of skin cancer and the need for sunscreen).

Our lives are filled with choices beyond number. Unfortunately, the more we choose to do, the less we seem to enjoy it. We get so busy rushing from one thing to the next, we don't take the time to savor the moment. And now that warmer weather is ‘releasing’ us from our houses, there are even more things to do. How do we choose ‘what comes next’?

The novelties and possibilities of all these choices certainly are exciting and enticing, but they may also entice us to forget about the basics, the things that are foundational to our lives in Christ. For instance, what about the Lord's Book? What about the Lord's Day?

St Paul reminds us of the precious value of the Bible: *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

And of the gathering of God's people for worship, the writer of Hebrews said, *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near* (Hebrews 10:23-25).

As St Peter warns and counsels us, *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. . . . Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God* (1 Peter 2:11, 16). For it's easy to get caught up in the wonder and beauty and excitement of the many choices this life sets before us. But don't let those things take over your life. Don't let them become your gods. Keep your eyes fixed on Christ, in Word and worship, and then, living in His name, carefully choose from and enjoy what our loving God has made available to you.