

## Autumn

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by Wayne Goff

The term “*autumn*” appears once in the New Testament and is the translation of a compound Greek word which literally means “to wane + autumnal (as stripped of leaves).” So it is referring to late autumn when the foliage is dead and stripped, or nearly so. This issue of the bulletin begins our **early autumn motif** – you can still see a little green if you look carefully.

Many people love the beautiful leaves of autumn, the cooler temperatures, and the harvest season of pumpkins, sheaves of grain, barns filled with corn, wheat, beans, and other produce. It is a time of harvest and a period of rest at the end of the productive summer. These things I love as well.

But autumn can also signal *the beginning of the end* – as the end of summer, the end of nature’s annual production, and the end of life. I truly believe every season given to us by God is a time for reflection and contemplation. Every autumn we should take stock of our lives, of our direction, of our limited time remaining here upon the earth. Every autumn we should also take time to thank God for the **produce** in our lives, both physical and spiritual. My family and I have been so blessed in both of these areas, and every autumn my heart is filled with gratitude. It is usually expressed most fully at Thanksgiving.

So as you view this issue of our weekly bulletin, stop and ask yourself if you have taken advantage of the season of produce in your life and have put the Lord first and served Him as you should. If not, then now is the time to make that right with your God and Maker!

Do not be as those for whom Jeremiah mourned when he wrote: “*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!*” (8:20). He was simply telling us in poetical, graphic language – **our opportunities are gone!** How sad. Do not be guilty of missing your opportunities in life. Today is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2). Tomorrow may never come. Yesterday is past. Be sure you are right with God now, today, before the “*difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’*” (Ecclesiastes 12:1). By the way, it’s not quite autumn yet.

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