

AUTUMN



Autumn is a very pretty time of the year. The heat of summer is ending and the coldness of winter is beginning. There is a lot of change going on. The trees turn beautiful colors as the leaves begin to die and fall. In the farming areas, the last crops of the year are being harvested. Animals are storing up food for the winter or getting ready to hibernate

(sleep all winter). Birds are beginning to travel to warmer areas for the winter. It seems as if the whole world is getting ready to go to sleep for the winter.

Autumn brings changes for us also. The light clothes of summer are being put away and the heavier clothes are being worn because it is getting colder every day. School begins again for the new year. Parents are getting the house ready for winter.

What can we learn from God's creation of autumn?

With all the changes taking place in autumn, God is teaching us to watch and learn. We see many things happening as plants and animals prepare for winter and we should think about preparing also. What we should prepare for is not only the coming of the cold of winter but also the coming of Jesus to take us to heaven. Autumn is a time of thinking about our lives and our faith. Have we forgotten about God as we played all summer long? Jesus taught us that we should be watchful in Matthew 24:42, 44 when He said, "Keep watch because you

do not know on what day your Lord will come ... You also must be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Just as the first very cold day of winter can come upon us without warning, Jesus will return one day without warning. We should be watching for Him and ready in our faith for his return. We should be eager to see Jesus return as the Bible teaches us in Psalm 130:5-6, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning."

God teaches us about change in his creation of autumn. One of the lessons is about how we are changed when we come to faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The Bible teaches us in 2nd Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come." Just as summer changes into autumn and autumn into winter, we also change with the faith God has given us.

Another lesson God teaches us with autumn is about death. When we see the leaves die and fall off the trees, it seems as if the tree is dead. The tree is

not dead but asleep and waiting for spring when it will come to life again. The same is true of us. For everyone who believes in Jesus as his Lord and Savior, death is not the end. Everyone who believes in Jesus will live again in heaven. There is more good news. In heaven we will not grow old or sick or ever die. The Bible teaches us in 1st Corinthians 15:42-44, "So it will be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown (begins) is perishable (grows old and dies), it is raised imperishable (lives forever); it is sown in dishonor (sin), it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." We should not be afraid of death. It is just the beginning of eternal life in perfect peace and happiness with our Lord Jesus.

Autumn is also a time for giving thanks to God for all of His great gifts. Autumn is a time of harvesting the crops that we eat and seeing all of the wonderful richness of the earth. It is God who gives us all of these gifts and many more. We should remember to thank God for all of His gifts as it says

in Psalm 136:1, "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever." Jesus always gave thanks for everything because He knew it was God the Father that provides all good things. We should learn this lesson from Jesus.

