

ANOTHER FALL

Summer turned into fall last week on September 22nd. We are starting to see signs of fall all around us:

- Some mornings we are already seeing frost on peoples' roofs
- Furnaces are being turned on to remove that morning chill in the house
- People are beginning to wear coats and pants again after wearing summer attire for the past few months
- We are beginning to see some trees turn colour and others begin to drop their leaves
- We are seeing pumpkins and gourds for purchase at stores
- Turkeys are beginning to be advertised with Thanksgiving fast approaching

So many signs are beginning to appear to let us know fall is definitely here. I just have to look around my house as I write this to be reminded. Nadine got out our fall decorations on Sunday afternoon and has them beautifully displayed around the house. Fall is definitely here. The Bible reminds us in many places how God created the seasons. One place in Scripture we see this is in Psalm 74:16-17:

**Both day and night belong to you;
You made the starlight and the sun.
You set the boundaries of the earth,
and you made both summer and winter.**

Scripture not only reminds us how God created the seasons, but also encourages us to pause with the beginning of each one to reflect on His character and attributes. This is an insight I shared with my congregation over the summer when I did a series called "Noah Days - Noah Ways." The first thing Noah did after he left the ark was build an altar to worship God. Immediately afterwards God promised Noah that never again would floodwaters destroy the earth. God then shared He was providing two signs to remind Noah and every generation about this promise. One sign would be the rainbow, and the other would be the coming of each new season. We see this in Genesis 8:22:

As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.

So, a new season of fall has come upon us, and it is God's intention that with this we will take time to reflect upon His faithfulness and love during previous seasons and carry this trust forward into fall. I would encourage all of us to do this so we can experience this season with a renewed faith.

I think there is another thing we should consider doing in our faith journey as we enter into this new fall. The Bible does make clear that God created fall, but it also tells us we created "The Fall." We are very familiar with the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden eating the fruit of the tree even though they were forbidden to do so by God and as a result sinned and caused this to be a "Fallen World" in which we live. As we take time to consider God's love and faithfulness in this season of fall, perhaps we should also take an opportunity to ponder if we are doing things that are causing ourselves to "fall away" so to speak in our walk with the Lord. How might we be doing this?

- **Have we been falling away from coming to church and worshipping God regularly?**
- **Have we been falling away in our giving to the Lord?**
- **Have we been falling away in spending time with God in prayer?**
- **Have we been falling away from walking in obedience and faith?**
- **Have we been falling away from doing His will?**
- **Have we been falling away from forgiving others, or showing love toward them as God desires?**

Just as we should take time as fall begins to reflect on God's love and faithfulness, we should also ponder if we have been "falling away" from following Him of late. If we notice we have been, then it will be important for us to fall back into following the Lord's desires for us in these ways. Remember the "Fall" is of our doing. If we choose to fall away from these ways in showing our love and devotion to the Lord, then when we fall due to life's circumstances the impact will be a more uncomfortable than if we fall into God's caring arms.

Let's take this new season of fall to spend time **reflecting on God's faithfulness**, and **to ensure we are not falling away** in any way in our walk with Him. If you happen to be a Leaf Fan like myself, fall is also a season when we spend time reflecting if this is the year, we will finally win a Stanley Cup.

Keep Safe and God Bless

Pastor Dean