

Pastor's perspective: Unlike the seasons, God does not change



By Guest Columnist John Vaughn, Pastor, Cross Roads Baptist Church

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summertime!

Autumn is officially here! But as is typical for us in Mississippi, many days, it will feel like we're still in the summertime!

Autumn is one of my favorite seasons. With cooler temperatures, it makes doing yard work and outside chores more pleasant. And of course, it is the season for football!

Someone has related the seasons of the year to the seasons we experience in life. With that in mind, the autumn of life is a strange mixture of nostalgia, blessings, and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come. When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do - the best and fullest. It's a good transition time.

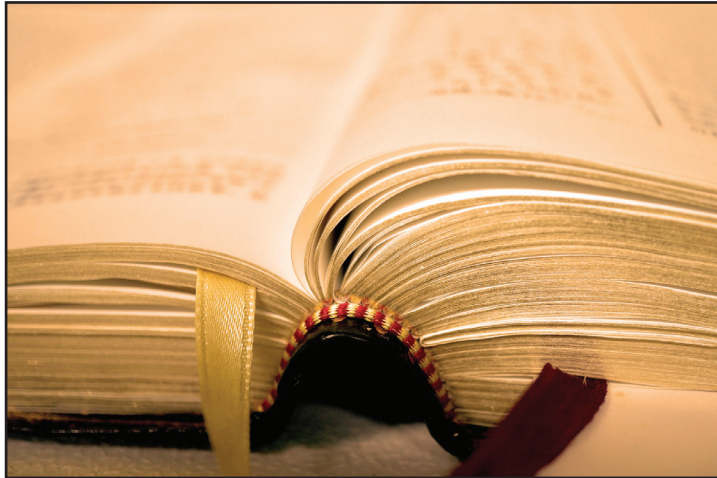
How can we take advantage of the "autumn of life?" We should start by recognizing the unchanging nature of God. The seasons come and go, and our lives change too. So we need something

stable to cling to. It is important to focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. The Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 90: 1-2, "LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or before You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

There's a lot of change occurring in our world today, much of it unwelcome. Moral and cultural changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids and grandkids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children. And personal changes are ongoing in our lives - children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. But amid all the changes, there is one thing; one person, that never changes - our

eternal God.

Theologian J. I. Packer points out that God does not change. His life is al-



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ways the same. His character is always dependable. His truth, ways, and purposes do not change. His Son does not change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is still our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, sta-

bility, joy unshakable, and life unending. We've all suffered setbacks along the way. But our Savior knows the end from the beginning, and He will bless whatever is yielded to Him. Focus on Him and His providence, grace and sovereignty.

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God's wonderful blessings - family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come. During life's autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before. Autumn is also a good time to focus on your commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are in Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

If you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time. If you are a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him during the shifting seasons of life. During autumn, we all know that winter lies ahead, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind? Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday.

(Some of these thoughts came from an article by Dr. David Jeremiah.)



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