

Autumn & Winter



Autumn & *Winter*

That season later in life when we can't, and perhaps needn't, be as active as we once were.

We will all face death at some time (unless the Lord comes first). But for a Christian, this "winter" is followed by a glorious and unending "spring".



What do you fear/dislike most about growing old?

- Feeling “useless”?
- Looking back on your life with regret?
- Being alone and unable to cope?
- Being a burden to others?
- Not knowing what to expect when death comes?

Autumn & Winter

Seasons

- What is death?
- The goal of sanctification.
- Beware of old age!
- Let the light shine!

➤ What is death?

It is better to go to the house of mourning
than to go to the house of feasting,
for this is the end of all mankind,
and the living will lay it to heart.

(Ecclesiastes 7:2)

The heart of the **wise** is in the house of mourning,
but the heart of **fools** is in the house of mirth.

(Ecclesiastes 7:4)

➤ What is death?

“Lord, if You had been here,
my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews
who had come with her also weeping,

Anger,
indignation

He was **deeply moved** in His spirit
and **greatly troubled**.

(John 11:32-33)

...Christ Jesus, who **abolished death**
and brought life and immortality
to light through the gospel...

(2 Timothy 1:10)

The last enemy
to be destroyed
is death.

(1 Corinthians 15:26)

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➤ What is death?

Death is separation

Separation of the soul from the body

Separation of the soul from God

The second death

“Truly, I say to you, today
you will be with Me in paradise.”

(Luke 23:43)



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➤ What is life?

Life is wholeness, fullness, completeness.

*"I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**."*

(John 10:10)

Christ returns

The resurrection of the dead

Christ is risen.

The beginning of the harvest

With God
in the
Garden

The
fall



With God
in the
new creation

The trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised** imperishable... (1 Corinthians 15:52)

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➤ What is life?

In Him was life...

(John 1:4)

The life was made manifest,
and we have seen it...
the eternal life which was
with the Father...

(1 John 1:2)

“I am the resurrection and the life.

Whoever believes in Me,
though he die, yet shall he live,
and everyone who lives
and believes in Me shall never die.

Do you believe this?”

(John 11:25-26)

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➤ What is the goal of sanctification?

...to be conformed to the image of His Son,
in order that He might be the firstborn
among many brethren.

(Romans 8:29)

Sanctification is about what you **ARE** not about what you **DO**.

➤ What is the goal of sanctification?

I am already being poured out as a drink offering,
and the time of **my departure** has come.

Loosing from moorings,
preparing to set sail

**I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.**

Henceforth there is laid up for me
the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that day,
and not only to me but also
to all who have loved His appearing.

Victory, honour

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➤ What is the goal of sanctification?

Sanctification is **glory**
begun.

Glory is **sanctification**
completed.

(FF Bruce)

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➤ Beware of old age!

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth...
(Ecclesiastes 12:1)

When the tide goes out, the rocks are seen...



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➤ Beware of old age!

It happened, late one afternoon,
when David arose from his couch
and was walking on the roof of the king's house,
that **he saw from the roof a woman bathing...**

(2 Samuel 11:2)



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➤ Beware of old age!

Old or young

Therefore let anyone who thinks
that he stands
take heed lest he fall.

(1 Corinthians 10:12)

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*Go and tell John
what you hear and see...*

***And blessed is the one
who is not offended by me.***

Are you the One who is to come,
or shall we look for another?



(See Matthew 11:2-6)

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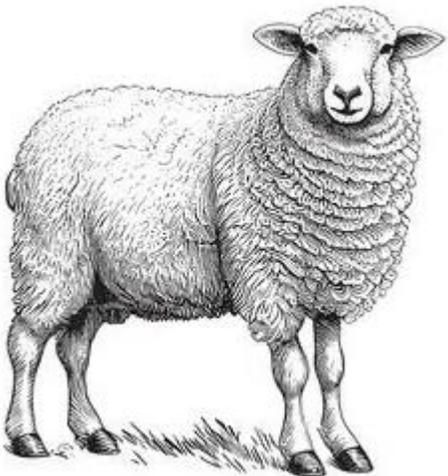
Seasons

➤ Let the light shine!

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

(Psalm 23:6)



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➤ Let the light shine!

To be changed
into His likeness

In life's "**autumn**", we see **the goal of the work** more clearly.

- In physical weakness, we can remain strong in spirit.
- In unexplained hardships, we can persevere with peace.
- In solitude we can worship and pray for those coming behind.

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➤ Let the light shine!

In life's "**winter**", we can bear witness to the victory of the Lord Jesus.

- We can understand that death's ugliness is because of sin.
- We can show the victory of Christ in the hope that sustains us.
- We can wait in faith for the resurrection of the body at His coming.

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➤ Let the light shine!

What do you fear most about growing old?

- Feeling “useless”?
- Looking back on your life with regret?
- Being alone and unable to cope?
- Being physically weak and a burden to others?
- Not knowing what to expect when death comes?

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**The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.**

(Proverbs 4:18)

