

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Jeremiah 8:18-22.**
My sorrow is beyond healing, My heart is faint within me! Behold, listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from a distant land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not within her?" "Why have they provoked Me with their graven images, with foreign idols?" "Harvest is past, summer is ended, And we are not saved." For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken; I mourn, dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has not the health of the daughter of my people been restored?
- B. School is in session--a real sign that Summer is over. Labor Day weekend is the unofficial end of Summer. Fall begins on the calendar on Sept. 23rd.
- C. One of the sad lines from Jeremiah was that the time of opportunity for Judah to turn to God was about over (8:20).
"Harvest is past, summer is ended, And we are not saved."
- D. As we contemplate the Summer past let's make three spiritual observations.

I. HARVEST IS PAST.

- A. Jeremiah went on to say that the harvest time for Judah was near (51:33).
For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor At the time it is stamped firm; Yet in a little while the time of harvest will come for her."
- B. In the parable of the weeds, Jesus speaks of the time of harvest. He goes on to explain that in the parable the harvest is the end of time (Mt. 13:39).
and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.
- C. Jesus is Lord of the harvest. He will take the saved to be with Him and He is the judge (1Th. 4:16-17; Jn. 5:25-27).
(1Th 4:16-17) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.
(Jn. 5:25-27) "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.
- D. One of the more graphic explanations of the final day in terms of a harvest is in Rev. 14.
 1. *The first sickle* of judgment (Rev. 14:14-16).
And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head, and a sharp sickle in His hand. And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." And He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth; and the earth was reaped.
This sickle reaps the earth and takes the faithful. The harvest does this; it separates the wheat from the chaff, taking the wheat.
 2. *The second sickle* of judgment (Rev. 14:17-20).
And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe." And the angel swung his sickle to the earth, and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.
This sickle reaps the earth and destroys the unfaithful. Judgment will give a reward to both the righteous and the unrighteous. It is a horrible judgment for sinners (see 14:19-20).

- E. Satan knows that his time is short. Because there's going to be a harvest, time will not go on forever. Satan has but a limited time to try to take souls away from God (Rev. 12:12).
 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."
- F. Do not want until the end to repent of your sins. Now is the time, not then, for then it will be too late (Jn. 4:35).
 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

II. SUMMER IS ENDED...

- A. Where did the time (Summer) go?
- B. When we look back retrospectively, we see that time seems to pass by faster and faster.
- C. This will always be the case. As one gets older, the years seem to pass by even faster.
- D. The Bible speaks of this phenomenon and gives caveats:
 1. **Time is fleeting** (Psa. 90:10-12).
 As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away. Who understands the power of Thine anger, And Thy fury, according to the fear that is due Thee? So teach us to number our days, That we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.
 2. **Faster than the weaver's shuttle** (Job 7:6,7).
 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, And come to an end without hope. "Remember that my life is but breath, My eye will not again see good.
 3. **Life is but a vapor** (Jas. 4:13-15).
 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."
 4. **Days are few and full of trouble** (Job 14:1).
 "Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil.
- E. The admonition is not to try and *lengthen* life! Rather it is to **deepen** it!
 1. Live wisely, soberly, making the most of your time (Eph. 5:15-16).
 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
 2. Make the most of every opportunity to do good (Gal. 6:10).
 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

IV. ...AND WE ARE NOT SAVED.

- A. This may very well be the saddest line of all.
- B. As much as we hate to see the Summer end, the coming of the harvest, etc., we know there is something better awaiting.
- C. The final judgment is just too awful to contemplate without X.
- D. There is no excuse for one to say, they are not yet saved:
 1. God has sent His Son (Jn. 3:16).
 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
 2. Christ came to save sinners (1Tim. 1:15).
 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.
 3. God's grace has appeared to all men (Ti. 2:11).
 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
 4. God is patient wanting all to repent (2Pet. 3:9, 15).
 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing

for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation;
just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

- E. Too many people have stopped asking one of life's most important questions, "What must I do to be saved?"

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Take the warning! Your life may be characteristic of Jeremiah's wait:
 - 1. The harvest is coming and will come to pass (final judgment).
 - 2. The Summer is ended, life is fleeting to its conclusion.
 - 3. And too many are outside of the saving grace of Jesus.
- B. Respond, repent, and be obedient to Jesus--today!
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.