



Pastor's Page

Autumn Days

So, this Tuesday is the first day of Autumn - according to my filofax! Summer is now well and truly over so you can put your barbecue set away, pack up your deckchairs, and get your factor 95 suntan cream recycled! We are entering the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' a time for harvest, horse chestnuts and country walks. It is a beautiful season in many ways and one that has inspired the poets to wax lyrically. For example Robert Frost wrote;

"I have been treading on leaves all day until I am autumn tired
God knows all the colour and form of leaves I have trodden on and mired
Perhaps I have put forth too much strength and been too fierce from fear
I have safely trodden underfoot the leaves of another year"

I have always found autumn a bitter-sweet season (the bitterness stems back to childhood days when September meant a return to school!!) But just last week in conversation with a friend I was given a new perspective on the subject. It was pointed out to me that autumn (in this country) is the one season in the year that we can rely upon! You see, summer is nearly always a disappointment; we very seldom get the long, hot, lazy days that the weather men promise; Winter too may 'let us down' not delivering the wonderful snowy scenes that some of us dream about!! And spring, well it can spring up late or early or just do 'its own thing'. But autumn always delivers – the leaves fall of the trees and we always get the incredible seasonal colours – always – yes autumn is truly a trustworthy season. Now whilst all four seasons speak eloquently of our wonderful creator God, the season of autumn reminds us of one of his most tremendous traits – namely his faithfulness – As the prophet Jeremiah said; "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23) And the New Testament says; "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8) So perhaps autumn is a good time to pause and reflect on God's great faithfulness and thank him for his provision and all that he continues to do in our lives.

But also September and autumn can offer new challenges. This season introduces a new academic year and for some this is a time to return after a summer break to the work they've put aside for a while. But for others it signifies the start of a new phase of life with fresh challenges and new assignments. Following Jesus is a life of faith and sacrifice. And this autumn we at Selly Park Baptist Church aim to take new steps of faith as we respond to all that God has been saying to us over these past 12 months as we have engaged in our consultancy process. We need to be prayerful as we assess the documents that the leaders have put together outlining the vision for this church for the next few years based on all the prayerful insights the Lord has given us. We will also need courage to step out in faith and go for the sort of future that we believe the Lord is calling us into.

But remember if we can always rely upon the season of autumn to deliver, how much more can we rely upon the Lord of the autumn and the Lord of the whole creation to be faithful to his promises?

20th October 2009