

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Saints of the Autumnal Equinox,

Autumn officially begins at 2:50 a.m. on September 23 this year. This bit of information from the internet may simply reaffirm what you already know: “Earth’s two hemispheres will receive the sun’s rays equally. Night and day will be approximately equal in length. The name ‘equinox’ comes from the Latin for equal and night. But, since Earth never stops moving around the sun, these days of equal sunlight and night will change quickly.”

For those of us in this part of Texas, it will be hard to think of Autumn on September 22nd when the average high temperature for Levelland on that date is 81 and the warmest high on record is 100 in 1998. The warmest low on that date for the last ten years is 67 recorded in 2010. It would seem to the stranger to Levelland that these temperatures certainly don’t serve as harbingers of Autumn. We know, however, that a high of 81 is downright nippy and with the days getting shorter we will sense a touch of Fall in the air. Talking about the Autumnal Equinox reminds us that God has provided markers to help us remember changes that take place in our lives.

I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 which begins “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...” We often take for granted the wonder that is the workings of our world. We hardly note the passing of the equinoxes or the solstices. We don’t even think about the intricacies of it all and how fragile this world is and yet how enduring and magnificent.

Each of us lives out our years in a part of the world where the average life expectancy is in the upper 70’s, (probably early 80’s for women). We move through each day and talk about how hot or how cold it is without remembering the same conversation a year ago. We become so wrapped up in the here and now, that we ignore the workings of the universe and the passage of time or the changing of the seasons. Part of this may be due to our ability to be insulated from these changes today. We can watch our favorite programs on our own schedule rather than natural time and we don’t have to fret about above average or below average temperatures. We can almost become persuaded that we are in control and are indeed masters of our own fate.

One might almost be persuaded that we are in control if one had not read and pondered Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 or any of the other wonderful scriptures that remind us of the wonders of God’s world and that we are God’s creation. None of what we have in the world came from us. Everything in it came from God; from the principles that apply in the working of any mechanism to the formulas that went into making the latest plastic.

Can humankind turn back the clock or speed up the clock? Only within the boundaries that make up the world that God created. So, start getting ready to put away those summer duds and looking for the long sleeve shirts. Just remember, we live in a world that belongs to God, a world about which we know very little. Will you need those Summer duds on the first day of Autumn? You might if it is 104 like it was nine years ago.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dennis

Revised Reprint from September 2014