

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1544

September 22, 2024

Daniel 4:12, *“The leaves thereof [were] fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it [was] meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.”*

Today is the first day of Fall. Night will now become longer than the day for the next six months. Temperatures will begin to drop. We are at the season when we can have frost, though it’s not likely until October. One of the first signs of Fall we see are the changing of the trees. The leaves will turn various colors and soon they will indeed “fall” to the earth.

Such makes me think of the above verse in Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a huge lush tree. The leaves were fair and it had much fruit. It provided meat for all and shadow for the beasts. The fowls dwelt in it and all flesh was fed from this tree.

This tree represented Nebuchadnezzar. He was a mighty king and he gave life and nourishment to many. But he was going to be cut down. A watcher and holy one came down from Heaven and told the fate of the tree. Daniel 4:13-14, *“¹³I saw in the visions of my head upon my*

bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; ¹⁴He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches.”

This was brought upon Nebuchadnezzar because of his pride. He was cut down and made to be a beast for seven times. Most interpret this to be seven years.

Even though Nebuchadnezzar was going to be cut down, there was hope. His stump was left and after the seven times, he returned back to being himself. He was humbled and praised the LORD.

Just as we’ll soon see the trees lose their leaves and go into their winter state, we know that there is hope. They will return to their summer and flourishing state when the weather warms next Spring.

Likewise our lives may well be into the “fall” of life. We are nearing the end. I know I am. There is no choice. Just as we see the signs of Fall by simply observing the trees, we can see if we are in the fall of life by simple observation.

We know from Psalm 90:10 that the average life is 70 to 80 years. *“The days of our years [are] threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength [they be] fourscore years, yet [is] their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”* Even a very young person might be in the “fall” of life since there is no assurity of any amount of time in this life.

It would be sad to see the trees lose their leaves to know they would never return. How much sadder it would be to know we are nearing the end of life, with no hope. But, there is hope. Titus 1:2, *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”*

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Sunday 9am,10am,12pm; 6pm (Online) — Wednesday 6pm (Online)

News

—Continue to remember **Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Ken & Erin Davis, Becky Hatcher, Richard Connolly, Larry Compton, Linda Terry, Rick Gibbs, Sandy Duncan, Jerry Reynolds, Betty Franklin, Lauren Candela** and

Alice Vanderstoep.

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We do have hope that the trees will once again “come to life” next Spring. Most of all we have hope of eternal life. We know once we pass beyond the “fall” of this life and depart this earth, there is eternal life. It’s this hope that keeps us going no matter what this life brings.

This hope is not empty and shallow. It’s a hope that is alive. I Peter 1:3, “*Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*” It’s because of the resurrection of Jesus that we have this hope. It’s a hope that will indeed come to pass for those who remain faithful to the LORD all their days. What does this lively hope lead to?

The next verse tells us, “*To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.*” Everything Peter is writing about in I Peter 1:4 is after this life.

It’s an inheritance, but it’s incorruptible. It’s undefiled. There is nothing negative or imperfect about it. It fades not away. All things here will fade with time, but not the inheritance in Heaven. And it’s reserved for us. We have it there waiting for us. Don’t miss out on what is yours to inherit eternally after this life.

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Sunday, September 15, 2024		
Classes	9	Luke 15:1-10
Preaching	26	Jeremiah 18
Contribution	\$748.00	
Afternoon	12	Psalm 22 & 23

Bible Quiz

One sinner that repenteth causes what in Heaven?

Last Week’s Answer— A lamb (Genesis 22:8)

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Just as we’ll see the leaves fade and fall over the next few weeks, with time we’ll see the same with our friends, family, and ourselves. But, we know that we have eternal life and an inheritance awaiting us in a few short years at most.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)