

"THE HARVEST IS PAST, THE SUMMER IS ENDED, AND WE ARE NOT SAVED"

Jeremiah 8:20

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INTRODUCTION

1. Jeremiah used this as a FIGURE OF SPEECH.
 - (1) He is telling Judah of her doom because of her failure to act in time.
 - (2) The harvest of the barley, and wheat was in APRIL, MAY and JUNE.
 - (3) The summer fruits of figs, grapes, and pomegranates were harvested in AUGUST and SEPTEMBER.
 - (4) HE REVIEWED the whole harvest season; it was ended, but no fruit had been stored for winter -- "*WE ARE NOT SAVED*".
 - (5) The LESSON is: It is too late now to expect further LENIENCY FROM GOD.
 - (6) He had pleaded and instructed, and warned them for many years, but all of the offered instruction had been REJECTED.
 - (7) The Nation would be taken by the Babylonians in captivity.
2. We want to take this passage and talk about OPPORTUNITIES that have passed for the gathering in of SOULS on our part as Christians:
 - (1) Think about the many OPPORTUNITIES we all have let pass to save men from hell.
3. We want to look at the opportunities that you have let pass to be saved if you are in your alien sins.
4. Some of you have heard sermon after sermon, time after time, and yet, you are not saved!
5. I want to say to you today, with all the force that I am capable of mustering:
 - (1) Don't get nearly to the Kingdom and then stop -- Mark 12:34.
 - (2) Don't just believe in the great truths of the New Testament, and then fail to obey the commandments to become a Christian.
 - (3) SALVATION is too vital a matter to take any chances on putting off obeying God -- 2 Thess. 1: 8 - 9.

I. GOD HAS GIVEN US ALL THE GRACIOUS SEASONS OF SUMMER AND HARVEST

1. There has been the seasons of SUMMER and HARVEST OF KNOWLEDGE.
 - (1) We had the SUMMER of Knowledge in this gospel meeting -- what did you do about it? Did you come and learn? -- Matt. 11: 29; Eph. 5:17
 - (2) The opportunity to KNOW the TRUTH -- John 8:32.
 - (3) The opportunity to OBEY the TRUTH -- Matt. 7: 21; Rom. 2:8.
 - (4) As Christians we have had the opportunity to learn and prepare to teach others -- 2 Tim. 2:2; I Pet. 3:15.
 1. Many have not taken advantage of the opportunity -- Heb. 5:12 - 14.
2. There has been the SUMMER and HARVEST of PRIVILEGES:
 - (1) The summer of privilege for those out of Christ to have access into the GRACE of God by the exercise of their faith -- Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2: 8 - 9.
 - (2) Think what a privilege it is to enjoy God's Grace -- Tit. 2: 11 -12.
 - (3) To some of you, it has been in vain thus far -- 2 Cor. 6:1.
3. The SUMMER OF PRIVILEGE FOR THE CHRISTIAN:
 - (1) The Privilege of Prayer -- I Thess. 5:17.
 - (2) The Privilege of Worship -- John 4: 23 - 24.

- (3) The Privilege of Sharing the Gospel with Others -- Matt. 28: 19 - 20; Rom. 1: 14 - 17.
- (4) The Privilege of being an Example -- Matt. 5: 13 - 16; I Tim. 4:12.
- (5) The Privilege of raising our Children in the Lord -- Eph. 6: 1 - 4.
- (6) The Privilege of Giving our Money to help Preach the Gospel -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2.
- (7) HAVE YOU LET THE SUMMER AND HARVEST PASS and not been enjoying these Privileges as a Christian??

4. THE SUMMER AND HARVEST OF BLESSINGS:

- (1) The Blessing of being God's Child -- Rom. 8: 16 - 17.
- (2) The Blessing of Prayer -- I John 5: 14 - 15; Matt. 7: 7 - 11.
- (3) The Blessing of God's Care -- Matt. 6: 25 - 33; I Pet. 5:7.
- (4) The Blessing of Hope -- Tit. 1: 2.

II. WHY WE LET THE SEASONS OF OPPORTUNITY PASS MANY TIMES:

1. Because of APATHY and INDIFFERENCE:

- (1) Many are just so busy with the cares of the world -- Mk. 4:19.
- (2) Many never consider their present state and future destiny.

2. Many will not forsake their sins and turn to God in obedience to His will -- I Thess. 1:9.

- (1) Many love to do evil -- John 3:19.
- (2) Many love money -- I Tim. 6:10.
- (3) Many love self -- 2 Tim. 3:2.
- (4) Many love to drink.
- (5) Many love to be lascivious -- Gal. 5:19.
- (6) They love to look and lust -- Matt. 5:28.
- (7) They love pleasure -- 2 Tim. 3:4.
- (8) Many love the wages of unrighteousness -- 2 Pet. 2:15.

3. Many will NOT believe:

- (1) Mark 16:15 - 16; John 8:24.
- (2) Heb. 3:12.
- (3) They do not believe the Promises.
- (4) They do not believe in Hell.

4. Many Procrastinate:

- (1) They put off the most important concerns year after year, season after season, from youth to maturity, from maturity to old age, and from old age to death.

III. THE REGRETS OF SUCH WILL BE AWFUL AND OVERWHELMING

1. Sometimes their regrets are expressed in this world.

- (1) One on his, or her, deathbed -- when it is too late -- will express regret for not serving God.

2. Regrets will surely be uttered in the next world -- in eternity:

- (1) The rich man -- Luke 16: 23 - 31.

3. In the Despair of Hell -- when the Harvest IS PAST:

- (1) "*There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth*"-- Matt. 13:42.
- (2) There "*shall be torment day and night forever and ever*" -- Rev. 20: 10.
- (3) They shall be in the lake of fire -- Rev. 20:15.
- (4) In outer darkness -- Matt. 25:30.
- (5) In the fire that never shall be quenched -- Mark 9:45.

CONCLUSION:

1. Friend -- NOW is the SUMMER; NOW is the HARVEST-- 2 Cor. 6:2.
2. Are you going to let it pass and not be saved???
3. Won't you come now?