

Another summer is nearly gone.

Another week and school will be beginning.

Another month and fall will be arriving on the calendar.

The days are growing shorter, darkness arrives earlier, stays later.

Each of us has one less summer to live.

Some of the people<sup>w<sup>h</sup>o</sup> whom we ate and drank and worshipped ~~with~~ this summer will never share another summer with us here on earth.

Did you laugh and feast and play with everyone who is important to you?

Did you treasure a beautiful sunset, taste a ripe strawberry, take a walk with someone you love?

Did you stop to help a family whose car had broken down? Did you pull some weeds for an elderly neighbor? Did you bring the sunshine of love into the dark room of a nursing home?

Will a child remember how you took time to listen?

Was there time after a meal to just sit and talk and not all rush off?

Or time to read some verses of scripture and to ponder about what God is doing?

Where have you prayed this summer? What have you prayed this summer? With whom have you prayed this summer?

Listen to God's word to you:

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time because the days are evil.

The days are evil. That is what God spoke to people nearly two thousand years ago, and in every age since: The days are evil.

I think the evil of these days is that we would find our joys in movies and malls and malted milk balls. It is not that they are evil in

themselves, but they can be so very addictive. Some new clothes can lift a sagging spirit, or candy, or the latest comedy or drama. But in an hour or a day or a week we are hungrier still. The more these are the answer to the hunger within, the more that hunger grows. Like getting drunk with wine, for a while it seems a great answer to the sorrows of our hearts, our aloneness. But the more we drink, the more the sorrow and loneliness grow.

God's word is: Do not get drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit. Or to put it another way: Do not seek to satisfy the hunger within with movies and malls and malted milk balls. Feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time.

My hope for us as we gather to be filled with the Spirit, is that God will lead us to learn to make the most of the time. There is so much joy and love and peace and hope that Christ gives to us, and sends out to the world through us. You feast on the living bread that came down from heaven, you sing psalms and hymns and spritual songs among yourselves, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Christ. Not a moment will be wasted when this is your life.

A child will be baptized this morning. God wants all of you to be a great family of faith and hope and love for this child. Then here with you he will be fed by the bread of life, and sing and make melody to the Lord in his heart. We will give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Summer is not yet over. Indeed the summertime of God's love in Jesus Christ is just beginning for you. Make the most of the time.