INTRODUCTION:
1. If I were asked what I thought to be the most beautiful season of the year most likely I would say autumn.
   A. If I were asked why I would probably give a variety of answers such as:
      1. Clear crisp weather.
      2. Birds gathering to leave for the winter.
      3. And the leaves of the trees changing colors, each day.
   B. If I were pressed to point out what the major reason for my feeling this way I would probably say it was the turning of the leaves.
2. In our lesson today I would like for us to briefly consider the autumn leaves and what they say to us.
   A. I think that it is evident that everywhere that we look, there is a sermon, if we will only see it.
   B. And I am sure, because of the words of Isaiah in our text; we can find a lesson worth learning in the Autumn Leaves.

BODY:
1. Read Isaiah 64:5-7
   A. There are numerous things in this text that we could study, but I simply would like to draw our lesson from the portion of verse six that says:
      1. “...and we do all fade as a leaf...”
2. The autumn leaves reminds us that summer is past.
   A. I doubt seriously if any of us can face the hills that surround us without realizing that the summer of 2005 is gone.
   B. However, there is by far a greater lesson to be learned than that the summer of “05” is gone.
   C. The turning of the leaves should cause us to understand that possibly the summer of many of our lives is past, or drawing near to the end.
      1. The words of Jeremiah to an unrepentant Israel should cause each of us to be aware of the seriousness of summer coming to an end – Jeremiah 8:20.
      2. Today, within the sound of my voice there may be some whose summer is past, and who are not saved.
         A. Again, I would think that the words of Jeremiah would cause each of us to carefully weigh our relationship with God.
   D. It is important for us to understand that summer is over, and we cannot bring it back.
3. The autumn leaves causes all of us to realize that the days are becoming shorter.
   A. But as each day draws shorter for each of us, there is by far something that draws shorter much faster.
      1. Life - James 4:13, 14.
   B. We sometimes sing the song, As the Life of a Flower.
      1. But, how often do we realize what we are singing – Job 14:1, 2; Psalms 103:15, 16.
C. The autumn leaf should cause each of us to see that “As the life of a flower, as a breath or a sigh, So the years that we live As a dream hasten by;"
D. As each day draws a minute or two shorter, our lives are coming to an end in leaps and bounds.

4. The autumn leaves should cause us to realize that night is coming.
   A. Although night concludes every day of every year, autumn leaves ought to cause us to see that night is coming closer.
   B. Night is coming, but the night that we need to be concerned with is the one that Jesus spoke of in John 9:4.
      1. One needs only to briefly examine this passage to see that Jesus speaks of His coming death and the fact that He could do no work after that time.
   C. As the leaf serves as a means of making shade for the summer, once “night” has come it no longer is able to do so.
      1. Likewise, once “night” or death has come to us we will no longer be able to do the works that need to be done.
         A. Whether these works is obedience to the gospel or obedience to the plan for the Christian.

5. The autumn leaves should also suggest that we make preparation for winter.
   A. Each of us realize that as autumn begins and draws to a conclusion winter is about to begin.
      1. We also realize that if we are going to be prepared for winter we had better get busy.
   B. Since we have seen that “night” is death, then winter can suggest judgment.
      1. I would hope that all of us here realize the importance of preparing for judgment.
      2. However, since some have not yet obeyed the gospel, then it is evident that we have not realized how important it really is – 2 Corinthians 5:10, 11.
         A. I hope that the story of the autumn leaf will cause you to see your need to obey the Lord.
   C. As we prepare for the winter months ahead we need to be more concerned with the judgment ahead.

6. The autumn leaves also suggest that after winter, of course, comes spring.
   A. All the beauties of spring cannot but help to portray the beauties of heaven, our eternal home.