

AUTUMN LEAVES

How beautiful the colors autumn shows,
Before cold winter's wind with snowflakes blows!
Green, vital leaves turn yellow, orange and red,
Then, tumbling to the earth, are softly dead.

What message, by this colorful array,
Does God, the Master Painter, wish to say?

Because of sin, man's days are as the grass...
Young leaves and lives both fade and quickly pass.
But there is hope—though earthly death be seen:
The branch that dwells in Christ is evergreen!

— *David L. Hatton, 10/25/1971*