Well, fall has arrived, the colors on the trees are showing and the spectacle of color can be breathtaking. The weather is cooler and the nights are longer. This is the time of year when Carol wants to start planting bulbs of every kind and shape. I don't really mind because I know how much I enjoy seeing all the color in the Spring. But, there is a price to pay. The hard work has to be done in the fall if we are going to enjoy the beauty in the Spring. That is true in all of life. We all make choices which will impact us later on. If I choose to stay up late Monday night watching NFL football, I know it will be harder for me to get up early for the men's Bible study on Tuesday morning. That brings us to the following verses.

Romans 6:12-13 (NLT) <u>Do not let</u> sin control the way you live; <u>do not give in</u> to sinful desires. [13] <u>Do not let</u> any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

Two very strong statements are made in verse 12 which show us the nature of the choices we must make everyday if we seek to live godly lives. 'Do not let' and 'do not give in' are both statements which make it clear that when it comes to doing what is right or giving in to sin the choice is ours. Too many times we think that this is referring only to the big choices or the big sins like adultery or murder. But the reality is that becoming more like Jesus, becoming more godly in our daily lives, means making many small choices everyday which lead to godliness.

Randy Alcorn put it this way: Whether or not you endure in your Christian life is dependent upon who you become. Will you become God's man or your man, Christ-dependent or self-dependent? It is the little choices of life that determine which one you become.

PRAYER: Lord, God please help me to make the little choices based on becoming more and more dependent on YOU. May I learn daily to choose against sin and for godliness. Help me to apply this in all areas of my life, what I watch, what I read, what I listen to because those things affect how I think and act.

Pastor Mark Kieft