

## Nothing HAS Changed If you Haven't CHANGED

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** says: "To every [thing there is] a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up [that which is] planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace". [L:11] [T:11] [SEP:SEP]

This is probably one of, if not the most quoted scripture when it comes to **dealing with change**.

Understand that **Nothing changes** if **Nothing changes**.

Someone once said, "**Change is inevitable; misery is optional**"!

Some people imagine that it is possible to **live life without change**.

- But, we can no more live and **not have change** than we can jump without feeling the impact of gravity.
- Therefore, *to live is to **experience change***, and any thought that we can **avoid change** in life is **pure illusion**.
- **Women** have rights just like men because **something changed**.
- **A black man** can sit in the front of a city bus because **something changed**.
- **People no longer** die in epidemic numbers from polio, influenza or small pox, **because something changed**.

I can try to **resist change** and **stay the way I am** - Or **release my resistance to change**

- Like a hot air balloon that goes up when you **remove** the weight of the sandbags from it.
- **Release** what is holding you back!

**Hebrews 12:1** - "let us lay aside every weight",

- In other words there is **some stuff that has to change.**

You see, **"NOTHING CHANGES WITHOUT CHANGE"**

- AND IF I KEEP DOING WHAT I'VE ALWAYS **DONE**
- I'LL KEEP GETTING WHAT I'VE ALWAYS **GOT**
- AND WILL KEEP FEELING WHAT I ALWAYS **FELT**

I've got to ask you this morning **are you ready for a change?**

- I believe some of us here this morning might be **ready for some changes in our life.**

**Albert Einstein** said"- "The definition of insanity (crazy) is doing the same thing over and over and **expecting a different result**"

We have to understand here today that **nothing is going to change** in our lives - **Unless something changes** in our lives.

**Woodrow Wilson** gave a very wise warning: "*If you want to make enemies try to **change something.***"

**Change can be very threatening**

- **WHY** – because ***change*** will bring with it **a level of uncertainty**
- **Because** of that uncertainty people develop an attitude or **spirit of fear**

**2nd Timothy 1:7 says:** "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind".

- Therefore we **should not** be **fearful of change.**
- **Change** can be **good.**
- **Change** can be exactly **what we need.**
- **Change** can **change** some things.

\*\*\*It happens with: individuals, marriages, businesses, organizations, and unfortunately with some churches.

Even the people of Christ's day who were looking for and expecting the promised Messiah!

- They **didn't accept him** when he came because **he didn't come the way they expected** him to come,
- Nor did he **do what they wanted him to do** when he came.
- As a result, **they rejected Christ** and missed out on **the greatest opportunity for real change** that the world has ever seen.

One of the greatest motivations for serving God is **because it changes you**.

2 Cor. 5:17...Therefore if any man **be in Christ**, he is a **new creature**: old things are **passed away**; behold, all things **have become new**.

The simple **interpretation** of this scripture is **change**.

- There can be a **change in me**.
- *I don't* have to **stay the way I am**.
- *I don't* have to **be the person I am**.
- *I don't* have to **be a worrier**.
- *I don't* have to be **someone who is always despondent**.
- *I don't* have to be someone **who sees grey skies** when the rest of the world is seeing **blue skies**.
- *I don't* have to be **bound by sin**.
- *I don't* have to **be destroyed** by **my lack of self esteem**.

**Therefore** if any man **be in Christ**, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, **all things have become new**.

Things can change!!! - It can be different!!! –

“Imagine Life Differently.”

Seriously, **Think about it -**

- Imagine your life **without all the stuff** that's **keeping you from being happy.**
- Imagine for a moment what it would feel like to **get out of bed** in the morning and **be truly happy.**
- Imagine for just a minute what it would be like to **go through an entire day without feeling depressed,** or **angry** or **jealous** or **unloved.**

**(Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.)**

Did you know that this verse of scripture is talking about **the effect of change** that happens in a person's life **when they get Born Again?**

- You see to be **IN Christ** is to be buried with him. **Dead to self!!!**
- There is **a change** that happens in a persons life **when they get Saved.**
- They don't **act the way** they used to act.
- They don't **talk the way** they used to talk.
- They don't **go where** they used to go.
- They don't **feel** the way they **used to feel.**

**Something changes.**

- And I'll tell you what it is...
- **It's the work of the Spirit of God in their lives.**

**You see, God is never going to leave someone the way He finds them!!!**

- He's going to **bless them.**
- He's going to **encourage them.**
- He's going to **strengthen them.**
- He's going to **forgive them.**
- He's going to **heal them inside and out.**
- He's going to **raise them up** and cause them to **stand above the people who used to put them down.**

**Something changes.**

- I **remember** the **darkness that surrounded** my life before I was Saved unto Christ.

- I remember the **fear**.
- I remember the **despondency**.
- I remember the **shame**.
- But there's **something else** that I remember very vividly.
- And that was **the immediate change** that took place in my life that night!!!!

**I've got to be honest with you...**

- Before I was Saved, I really **didn't think** there was **much wrong with me**.
- But I have to admit, having **realized the change** that the Lord did in my life
- **There was a lot more wrong with me** than I care to admit to you today.
- I remember **the clean feeling** I felt the night I was Saved.
- **Old Paul Harvey**. "How do you feel Harvey?" "**Clean!**"

**It is craziness to continue to do the same thing and think something different is going to happen!!!!**

- I've heard people say, "**I'm going to change!**" But **nothing changes** in their life.
- If you truly want real, genuine change in your life, why don't you **change something here today?**
- Why not make a decision to **start walking with God** today in a **greater way** than you ever have?
- Why don't we make a decision today to **talk to God before we talk to anyone else** about the problems in our lives?

\*\*\*\*There's a saying that says "**prayer changes things**".

Can I just say, "It's just silly to pray and **not expect change to take place.**"

- It doesn't have to be **eloquent**.
- It just needs to be **honest and sincere**.

\*\*\*\*I'm sure that most of us know this already, but if you're struggling with something in your life that is beyond your control,

- I want you to know that **Prayer can change** your situation.
- It doesn't have to be **long**. It doesn't have to be **rehearsed**.
- **It just has to come from your heart.**

**1 Peter 5:6-7** says “**Humble yourselves** therefore under the mighty hand of God, that **he may exalt you in due time**: Casting all your care upon him; for **he cares for you**”.

**Change must happen in life, for to live is to grow; to grow is to change!!!!**

**Isaiah 61:3** says “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called **trees of righteousness**, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified”.

- God wants to **take your brokenness** and put you together anew.
- But we have to realize here today too that **Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes.**

**Romans 12 :2** says: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**“TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND”** – Transform means to **undergo a change in the structure**: it’s a genetic modification.

**A caterpillar** is not a beautiful creature,

- it crawls around on the ground vulnerable to predators
- But at some point in its life it under goes a transformation
- Both physically and mentally.

The transformation physically causes **the genetic structure to change**

- And produces **wings** of a multitude of colors
- That makes it possible for the **new creature to fly**
- And look prettier than before
- But also there’s a **transformation** that takes place in its **mind**.

When it was a caterpillar ***all it could do was crawl around***

- **But after the transformation** in the mind That caterpillar realizes he can fly.
- He can **rise above being stepped on** and he can **out maneuver** its predators.
- **But if there hadn’t been a change**, then **nothing would have changed**.

**CLOSE:**

“Therefore if any man [**be**] in Christ, [**he is**] a new creature: old things **are** passed away; behold, **all** things are become new”.

**As long as you stay in that condition**

- You are always going to get the same results!!!!
- But if you would just **allow change to come** to your life Today...
- **He will turn your situation around!!!!**

**Remember, Nothing HAS Changed If You Haven't CHANGED!!!**

- Make up in your mind today that I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.
- **You must change** from being dead in sin to being alive in Christ.
- From lost to found.
- From hurt to healed
- From sad to happy
- From 'out of my mind' to being in perfect peace.

**Hebrews 12:1** - let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us

**TAKE THAT FIRST STEP – because change begins with that 1st step and Nothing HAS Changed If You Haven't CHANGED!!!**