

“The Benefits of Change.”

Unlike the uncertainty of those who do not believe Jesus Christ is God and therefore either ignore or totally refuse to follow the Bible – we have this absolute certainty:

**THE BIBLE IS THE INDISPUTABLE WORD OF GOD
AND JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.**

Many throughout time have tried to prove that Jesus was either a Liar or a Lunatic but came to the conclusion that He is in fact Lord.

Last week I spoke of how change causes fear when there is no reference point – no unshakeable revelation. Well we have the Bible as our unshakeable reference and through God and His Word we can receive Hope and Life that will bring a stability that many long for.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven

MALACHI 3:6

“For I am the Lord, I do not change”

This is why the Apostle Paul truthfully instructs us to build our lives on the unshakable foundation & revelation of God and His Word.

HEBREWS 12:28

Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

With God we can be secure in the midst of change.

1. God uses change to advance His purposes in our lives.
2. God has promised that nothing on Earth is permanent.
3. God’s Character & Nature are UNCHANGING!

There were four reasons why God created us:

1. He created you on purpose for a purpose.

2. He created you to carry His Grace and Favour
3. He created you to perform great exploits
4. He created you to be a blessing to other people.

For us to get to a place where we can effectively do all four of these – God is going to do some work in our lives. We need to believe these four things as ‘not-negotiable’ for us to be solid in our calling and serving.

Last week I taught that were FOUR basic types of change

FOUR Types of Change:

1. Change that happens TO us – this is change that affects us personally
2. Change that happens AROUND us – community, society, nationally
3. Change that happens WITHIN us – physical, emotional, mental, spiritual
4. Change that WE INITIATE

To one degree or another we are continually being ‘transported / changed’ – whether suddenly or gradually – into the new, the different, the unexpected, the untried, the unwanted, the wanted...

SIMPLY TO LIVE ANOTHER MINUTE IS TO CHANGE

Jesus knew this truth. Jesus was the carrier of change and He wanted His disciples to be well aware that things would not remain as they were. He knew things were going to change so much that at times it was going to be difficult for His friends.

John 16:1

NKJV - These things I have spoken to you that you should not be made to stumble

MSG - “I’ve told you these things to prepare you for rough times ahead.

NIV - “All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.

NLT - “I have told you these things so that you won’t fall away.

NCV - “I have told you these things to keep you from giving up.

"He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery." - Harold Wilson British Prime Minister 1964-70

Change can be our enemy or our friend.

Change causes fear when there is no reference point – no unshakeable revelation.

FEAR= F-false E-evidence A-appearing R-real

CHANGE CAN BE A 'REVEALER OF THE TRUTH'.

When things change there are times when it exposes how we really feel or think about those things. It exposes potential issues, weaknesses, strengths or false ideas. Change can even make a dimly lit path clear.

Change will often reveal our personal expectations that are tied to things, people and events etc.etc.

Often with dramatic change people can become “disillusioned”. I find the whole issue of disillusionment fascinating.

ILLUSION = the appearance of or expectation of something that is actually not there

DIS = the removal of ...

When something is ‘dis-infected’ ... this is the removal of the ‘infecting agent’. So when we get disillusioned with something the question needs to be asked ...

“WAS IT REALLY THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?”

“WAS OUR EXPECTATION UNREALISTIC OR UNMET?”

Disillusioned with a relationship – was there a relationship there in the first place?
– were our expectations realistic or unmet?

Disillusioned with Church – were you actually really planted there in the first place?
– were our expectations realistic or unmet?

Disillusioned with God – did you really have a connection with God or was it a mere acquaintance? What were your expectations?

Now before any who are going through change and finding it hard run off and say “The Pastor said I don’t have a relationship with God because I am disillusioned ... “

Perhaps we need to use a more correct word.

The Bible does not say we “Once Saved – no more difficult times”. Actually it says quite the opposite.

Perhaps you are dismayed or disappointed; maybe even discouraged? There is a vast difference between being discouraged and disillusioned.

Let’s take change in a relationship for instance. While I love my wife and she loves me ... I am completely sure that there will be times that while she loves me – she may not necessarily ‘like’ me or what I am doing. I am sure at times I have caused Suz to be discouraged but not disillusioned about our marriage.

You see, Suzanne and I have the unshakeable revelation that God wanted us to be married to each other. We know that because we asked Him to show us before we got married – and He did!

IN ALL CHANGE THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH.

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we are not really living." - Gail Sheehy
American Author and Lecturer

So how do we approach change?

Five Approaches to Change:

1. People watch it happen – passive, indifferent
2. People let it happen – resigned, defeated
3. People wonder what happened – mere curiosity or never saw it coming
4. People defy what happened – resist it and waste time trying to stop it
5. People make it happen – proactive response

I have now shown you four TYPES of change and five APPROACHES to change and of those there are two the same:

4. Change that WE INITIATE
5. People make it happen – proactive response

People lose out on opportunities to explore the uncharted territories of their true potential – all for the sake of trying to protect the way life used to be! Myles Munroe - Preacher, Author and Businessman from the Bahamas

So what must we do regarding change?

1. Learn to define and interpret change – what does it mean, what needs to change
2. Discover appropriate responses to change – respond not react
3. Learn how to create, initiate or make change that enables not disables.

WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE CHANGE AGENTS!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-21

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

RECONCILE: settle, put to right, bring together, square away, reunite, resolve, merge, patch-up CHANGE FOR THE GOOD!

Again we use the Word of God as our unshakeable revelation and foundation. We cannot fully be Minister's of Reconciliation if that is only based on our own mere humanity ... humanity is flawed without Christ.

I asked this question last week:

Will you say a 'YES' so big to God that because of that 'yes' every other decision that follows is taken care of and comes into line?

You have the power and the ability to determine the quality and effectiveness of your future by your response to change.

Those who plan and prepare for change are never really surprised by it because they understand that change is integral to life.

BENEFITS OF CHANGE

1. Change draws out potential
2. Change challenges potential
3. Change pressures and shapes potential
4. Change manifests the person behind the potential

“The place that seems to be the end – might be the beginning” Ivy Baker Priest – US Treasurer
1953-61.

ROMANS 8:24-28

For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

ARE YOU THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE?

**IF YOU ARE – CHANGE WILL HAPPEN BUT GOD IS IN
CHARGE!**