

## **The More Things Change** **By Paul R. Blake**

“In this incomparably fateful hour for humanity everywhere, we must do more than be informed of national and world affairs about which the news commentators, who daily remind us of the unspeakable tragedies and sufferings of the whole world. The entire planet is now at a crossroads; all of its ethical standards are being brazenly challenged, and we are now facing one of the most ominous and momentous of crises in this nation’s history. But gravely critical and difficult as is the hour now facing America and all of the world, it is not an hour for fear, defeatism, and unbelief, but an hour of unwavering faith, high moral courage, and noble behavior.” (George W. Truett, December 25, 1952)

The more things change, the more they stay the same. The fact is, this nation has always been in crisis, and yet it always manages to remain intact and move forward. It is too large and its mass and momentum too powerful for one man or one woman to divert or destroy. It will change over time, but so does everything in this fallen world. Even more so than the nation, the kingdom of the Lord will not be stopped or destroyed by one man or by one woman or by one election. Christians have been able to remain Christians in the Roman Empire and in every nation and under every regime in history. I trust God’s promise that the kingdoms of men cannot bring down the kingdom of God. Do you believe God?

Romans 8:33-39 - “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

### **How to Keep Your Perspective in God’s Providence**

- Trust God; He has more than proven His care for His children
- Keep your life in this world second to your life in the world to come
- Do not allow working for a living to cost your eternal life

### **A Crumb**

A loaf of bread fell from a bakery truck and as it hit the pavement a large crumb broke off. Three sparrows swooped down on the crumb and began fighting over it. One bird succeeded in flying off with the crumb with the other two in close pursuit. A series of frenzied aerial maneuvers took place until one of the birds finally ate the crumb. Yet, the loaf was untouched by the birds. Only the crumb seemed worth the fight. If the birds had displayed more vision and less greed, they could have all been satisfied. People, like birds, quarrel over trivialities. In the heat of struggle over them, life’s bigger and more enriching blessings escape them.

### **The Parable of an Ignorant Church**

A preacher once entered a Bible Class while it was still in progress. He asked the children a question: "Who made the walls of Jericho fall?" One little boy piped up, "I sure didn't do it."

The preacher turned to the teacher and asked, "What do you have to say on behalf of this student?" The teacher said, "This boy is honest and I believe him. I don't think he did it."

Leaving the room in bewilderment, the preacher encountered one of the deacons and explained what had happened. The deacon said, "I have known the boy for some time and I am convinced he would never do such a thing."

By this time the preacher was heartsick and reported to the elders. They said, "We see no point in disturbing the congregation over this matter. Let's just pay the bill for any damage to the walls and charge it to upkeep."

### **Appointment at Samarra**

There is an old legend about a rich merchant in Baghdad who sent his servant to the market. While he was at the marketplace, he was jostled by someone in the crowd. When he turned around he saw an emaciated man in a long black cloak who raised both hands in the air. He knew it was Death. The servant ran home to his master and in a trembling voice told him about the encounter, and how Death had looked at him and made a threatening gesture.

The servant begged his master to loan him a horse so he could ride to Samarra for the night and hide so Death would not find him. The master agreed, and the servant galloped away.

Later, the merchant went down to the marketplace and saw Death standing nearby. The merchant asked, "Why did you make a threatening gesture to my servant and frighten him?" "That was not a threatening gesture," Death replied. "It was just that I was startled to see him in Baghdad, because I have an appointment with him tonight in Samarra!" (Peter Marshall)

### **Monuments**

By Stephen Auman

Day to day, today, today,  
We slowly chip our lives away  
And what we carve from this will be  
A statue for eternity.  
So, as each daily chipping must  
Reduce our days and selves to dust,  
We must be sure that we take pains  
To shape the statue that remains

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- We do not become old until regrets take the place of our dreams.
- Good listeners are not only popular everywhere, but after while they also know a few things.
- The only people who die from hard work are those who kill themselves trying to avoid it.
- Horse sense is something that horses have that keeps them from betting on humans.
- Never ruin repentance with an excuse.
- If you think you have all of the answers, you've probably misunderstood the question.
- The reason good ideas die quickly in some peoples' heads is that the idea cannot survive in solitary confinement.
- Give to a pig when it grunts and to a child when it cries, and you will raise a fine pig and a bad child.
- The pessimist may be right in the long run, but the optimist has a better time during the trip.

- It takes the same amount of mental energy to plan as it does to merely wish.
- The heaviest load to carry is a bundle of grudges.
- Fear knocked on the door. Faith answered. There was no one there.
- Now and then we need a tumble, even if it just keeps us humble.
- Pain makes you think; thinking makes you wise; wisdom makes pain bearable.
- We are only young once, but some are immature indefinitely.
- If you believe what you like in the Bible, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Bible you believe in, but yourself.
- It is a sad comment on our time that out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.