

Change for the Better

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. Change is part of life under the sun - Ecc. 3:1
- B. God expects men to change for their spiritual well-being - Psalm 55:19
- C. Jesus required change for the better - Matt. 18:3
- D. "Some changes look negative on the surface but you will soon realize that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge. Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything" (George Bernard Shaw).
- E. "We are taught you must blame your father, your sisters, your brothers, the school, the teachers - but never blame yourself. It's never your fault. But it's always your fault, because if you wanted to change you're the one who has got to change" (Katharine Hepburn, Me: Stories of My Life).
- F. Not all change is good, only change for the better
 - 1. Change agents among brethren have led disciples into error and have made the rest of us fear necessary change
 - 2. The current presidential administration promised change and delivered, but to all reasonable persons it has not nor will be change for the better

I. SOME THINGS CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT CHANGE

- A. God - Mal. 3:6; James 1:17
- B. Jesus - Heb. 13:8
- C. God's word - Matt. 24:35; 1Peter 1:23; 2Thes. 2:15; 2Tim. 1:13

II. A CHANGE IN COGNITION

- A. The thief on the cross - Luke 23:39-43
- B. Shame for the past - Rom. 6:21
- C. Our thinking must change in order to be in Christ and to remain in Christ
 - 1. Rom. 12:2-3; Col. 3:9-10; Phil. 4:8

III. A CHANGE IN CONDITION

- A. From the kingdom of darkness to kingdom of His Son - Col. 1:13
- B. Passed from death to life - 1John 3:14
- C. Old things become new creations - 2Cor. 5:17
- D. Children of wrath become adopted children of God - Eph. 2:1-3, 1:3-11

IV. A CHANGE IN CONDUCT

- A. Sin must become past behavior no longer engaged - 1Cor. 6:9-11
- B. Grace requires godly living - Titus 2:11-12
- C. The change in conduct must be visible - 1Peter 4:4
- D. When Christ lives in us, the change comes from within - Gal. 2:20
- E. One gives all of his life to God Who facilitated the change - 1Cor. 6:19-20

V. A CHANGE IN LIFE'S CLOSE

- A. Once we were without hope - Eph. 2:12-13; Col. 1:21-23
- B. Change is entirely up to us - Rom. 6:23
 - 1. If we are willing to change our cognition and conduct, God will change our condition and the close of our lives.