

Change is Forever

Israel Changes Leaders

“Then Moses spoke to the Lord, saying: 16 “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, 17 who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.” Numbers 27:15-17

1. Each church leader brings the congregation out of one place and into another.
2. Each pastor should build on the foundation of the previous.

“Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.” Deuteronomy 1:38

“But command Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.” Deuteronomy 3:28

1. Leaders should not be criticized but encouraged and strengthened.
2. It is easier to kill than heal.
3. Joshua walked ahead of the people and led them in to the promised land.

“Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. 8 And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:7-8

1. Three times it is said Joshua would cause the people to inherit the land – prosper.
2. You cannot truly prosper without a pastor.
3. There is a greater inheritance yet to be claimed for any church.

Change, Respond, or React

“I am the Lord; I do not change.” Malachi 3:6

1. God told Israel to change directions in the wilderness.
 - a. Repent and change their attitude toward Him.
 - b. Turn from idols.
2. God does not change, but we need to.
3. If you do not change, you camp and become stagnant.

4. Change is your friend. It helps pinpoint your location.
5. Without change you have no job.
6. We are surrounded by change in music, technology, education. But, in the church, we fight change.

God Loves Change in His People

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

1. We want change in our own life if it is toward the better.
 - a. Growth
 - b. Healing
 - c. Natural blessings
2. We want others to change and preach it in church.
 - a. Salvation for sinners.
 - b. Healing for the sick.
 - c. Regaining joy and fellowship with God for the carnal Christian.
3. We hate to face change in our own routine for life.
 - a. We have a difficult time with new pastors, songs, different seats...
 - b. New leadership in any department.

Why Do We Need to Change?

“God will hear and afflict them. Even He who abides from of old because they do not change, therefore they do not fear God.” NKJ

“God, Who is enthroned from of old, who does not change – He will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God.” NIV

“God, Who has ruled forever, will hear me and humble them. For My enemies refuse to change their ways; they do not fear God.” NLT

“God will give ear and humble them, He Who is enthroned from of old, because they do not change and do not fear God.” ESV Psalms 55:19

1. When you refuse change, you stop your journey and no longer reverence God.
2. You resist change because you want to remain in control.
3. When you embrace change, you recommit your trust in God.

Change is a Natural Part of Life

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

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted.

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to break down, and a time to build up.

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance.

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to gain, and a time to lose; A time to keep, and a time to throw away;

7 A time to tear, and a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;

8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.

9 What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? 10 I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied.”

1. Change is a leader’s greatest asset because you can expect it.
2. You can use change to create and move ahead. It is your friend.
3. Change allows you to prepare, be inspired.
4. Leaders exist for change. Without change you have no job.
5. Businesses which do not change die.
6. Change allows you to truly find where you are, your personal location.
7. The enemy of change is tradition. It kills creativity.
8. Move on from the former things. God is doing some new things.

“11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”

1. History is divided into time periods. CHANGES.
2. God puts dispensations into His plan toward His eternal kingdom.
3. We need to understand each change takes us closer to our destination.

“12 I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, 13 and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.”

1. What should your attitude be during change?
 - a. Rejoice – God has everything under control.
 - b. Keep doing what you have always done.
 - c. Throw a party.
2. Continue to enjoy life. God made everything to be enjoyed.

“14 I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it.

God does it (brings changes), that men should fear (be reverent) before Him. 15 That which is has already been, and what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past."

1. We often think the only important time is from the time we are born until we die.
2. Time has existed for billions of years. Our lifespan is a speck.
3. Changes, in our lifetime, have happened many times in history. Climate change is an example.

Don't Fear

1. What will we do? Where are we going? Our church will change?
2. Your church has always changed and will change many more times.
3. Change is not new. Nothing happens that has not happened before.
4. What is to come has also happened before.
5. What you are going through has happened thousands of times to others in the past.
6. If Jesus does not come soon it will happen to others thousands of times in the future.
7. God desires us to look to the past for faith and hope for the future (vs. 15).
 - a. We have come through changes before.
 - b. We will come through this change also.
 - c. Should you live long enough to see another pastor you will come through that change also.