

# Change

- In our youth it is among our best friends.
- We sought it! Saw it as making us better!
- Consider it a privilege and blessing.
- We wanted to learn!
- We wanted to grow!
- We wanted to change! With enthusiasm
- As adults, change can begin to feel a burden, no longer a friend, first becomes a stranger and eventually can actually be seen as an enemy.
- Habits make change hard

# Change – Always the Friend of a Christian

- *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ Phil 3:7-9*
- Change = Losing & Gaining... Seeking & Finding
- Change = We lose what we shouldn't keep
- Change = We gain what we need & should have

# Change: Always a Friend to a Christian

- *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:12-14*
- We hunger and thirst for it.
- It is an ever moving beacon of our living Hope.

# Loving Change – A Sign of Maturity

- *Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Phil 3:15*
- *Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Phil 3:17-18*
- Paul is the example and pattern revealing that those around us who are changing and growing should be noted and followed.

# Our Attitudes toward Change – Reveal Who and What We Are

- *Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. Prov 9:8-9*
- *Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? Gal 4:16*
- *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. Prov 12:15*

# The Role of Scripture / Sermons

- *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, 2 Tim 4:1-3*
- If we don't want to change – It is a sign of weakness and stunted growth
- All reproving, rebuking and exhorting lead to change

# Repentance = The Sign of Growth

- Repent = Change of mind resulting in a change of life
- *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. 2Cor 7:10-11*
- Every time we need to change we must repent.

# Motivation Keeps Change Friendly

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to **a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, 4 to **an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled** and that **does not fade away, reserved in heaven** 1Pet1:3-4*
- A Living Hope
- Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- An Inheritance – Incorruptible – Undefiled
- Does not fade away – reserved in heaven
- Whatever change is necessary is welcomed



# Promises Motivate to Change

- *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. Heb 11:13-16*

# Motivation Keeps Change Friendly

- **If by any means ... attain resurrection...**
- **I reckon sufferings not worthy to be compared with the glory**
- **They looked for the recompense of reward**
- **For the joy set before Him**
- **Seen and welcomed the promises**
- **Begotten again to a living hope**

# Moses Saw Recompense & Changed

- *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. Heb 11:24-26*
- For Moses it made perfect sense to make these changes.
- It would have been a far greater sacrifice not to change.

# Paul's Zeal to Change

- *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 1 Cor. 9:24-27*

# Witnesses Proclaim: Change

- *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Heb 12:1-2*