

Intro.

- A. CHANGE: to make different, to alter or adjust.
1. (In currency: change 20 \$1.00 bills into 1 \$20.00, or a \$10 bill into a roll of 40 quarters.)
 2. In life, we are familiar with change: grow taller, heavier, stronger---then---shorter, lighter, weaker
 3. **2 Cor. 4:16**, Paul helps us to see that while many physical changes are of a detrimental nature, there can & should be positive changes in the spiritual realm of our lives. **Eph. 2:4-10**
- B. In text, Ephesians had one time been *dead in trespasses & sins*, but things had changed by God's grace\
1. Changes included changing from being dead to being alive, without hope to being full of hope, & being separated from God & without Christ, to being *in Christ & members of God's household*.
 2. Later read in **Rev. 2:4** that the church at Ephesus had changed again, & *left their 1st love*.
- C. At the outset, quickly see that change in & of itself is neither good nor bad.....just different.
- D. While we may not adapt quickly to change, we realize how real change is in our world today.
1. One of the attractive features about Lord is how stable & changeless he is. (c. **Jas. 1:17, Heb. 13:8**)
 2. If you are going to follow Christ, have to be more like Him, & that requires change in our behavior & our convictions. (c. **1 Jn. 1:8 & Ac. 17:30**)
- E. Consider some of the really significant changes that occur in the lives of all who follow Jesus.

Discuss.**I. THE MIND HAS BEN CHANGED – BY FAITH.**

- A. Just look at the change that took place in the mind of 1000's on the 50th day after the Passover in Jerusalem the day the church was born. **c. Ac. 2:37**
1. Just over a month ago these people had doggedly determined the demise of deity on the cross, **Mk. 15:12-15**
 2. Jesus words fell on their ears f/ Calvary, they felt the earth shake, & the sun disappear for 3 hrs., they saw deceased acquaintances again walk the streets in Jerusalem.
 3. They heard about the veil of the temple tearing into, & they had been astonished by the empty grave.
 4. Now these same people heard uneducated apostles speaking their own languages fluently as they convicted them of being an accessory to the crime of crucifying the Christ.
- B. As faith came to them (**Rom. 10:17**), they expressed their change of mind: **Ac. 2:37 !!!**
- C. Have you ever really let your faith in Jesus Christ radically affect your thinking?

II. THE WILL HAS BEEN CHANGED – BY REPENTANCE.

- A. When a person becomes really convinced about who Jesus is, a decision has to be made about just how that is going to effect my actions.
1. Jesus gives us all the same choice: *Repent or Perish*, **Lk. 13:5**
 2. It was for *our sins* that he died on that rugged tree, **1 Pet. 2:24** (stated at least 9 times)
- B. Paul explained, *For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, not to be regreted...* **2 Cor. 7:10**
1. Only 1 appropriate way to react to Jesus' sacrifice for me: *to repent & obey God*. **Ac.2:38 & Ac. 17:30**
 2. Faith in the Son of God can only save *if* I am determined to repent, resign my will to the Lord's, & willing to ***Let Him Have His Way With Me.***

III. ONE'S ALLEGIANCE IS CHANGED – BY CONFESSION.

- A. To confess faith in Christ is really to acknowledge your allegiance to Christ, & your desire to follow Him.
- B. You know the verse: **Rom. 10:10**
- C. This change is essential, for... **Mt. 10:32.**

IV. ONE'S RELATIONSHIPS (with everyone) ARE CHANGED – BY BAPTISM.

- A. My relationship to Christ changes, **Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27** (remember the lesson text!)
1. ALL spiritual become accessible to me in Him. .2. In Him, *redemption & forgiveness* is found!!!
- B. My relationship to the world changes, **Jas. 4:4 & 1 Jn. 2:15-17**
- C. My relationship to others who have been baptized changes, **Gal. 6:1-2, 10**

V. ONE'S AFFECTIONS MUST BE CHANGED.

- A. Paul charted a course for your affections in **Col. 3:2**
- B. Decide where you will turn our affections, to the world *or* to the Lord. (c. **Josh. 24:15; 1 Jn. 2:15**)

VI. OUR PURPOSES MUST BE CHANGED.

- A. As appropriate changes of affections are made, our *purposes* also undergo a change that should be carefully orchestrated, c. **Rom. 6:16** (Paul noted with thanksgiving the transformation in the Romans, **17f.**)
- B. *What are your purposes in life???*

VII. ONE'S CITIZENSHIP MUST BE CHANGED.

- A. Interesting to hear the Spirit's description of this transformation as it happened in Colosse, **Col. 1:13**
- B. Citizenship of the Christian is *in heaven*, **Phil. 3:20**
 - 1. *This World Is Not My Home...*
 - 2. In words of **Heb. 11:13**, God's people are *strangers & pilgrims on earth.*

VIII. ONE'S LIFE MUST BE CHANGED.

- A. **2 Cor. 5:17** *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
- B. When a person comes out of the waters of baptism, he is *raised to walk in newness of life*, **Rom. 6:4.**

IX. ONE'S ASSOCIATIONS MAY HAVE TO BE CHANGED. (Touched on in pt. # IV).

- A. In discussion of the resurrection & baptism, Paul included a warning in **1 Cor. 15:33**
- B. If you commit yourself to this change, be ready for some of the reactions you may encounter, **1 Pet. 4:3**

X. OUR NAME IS CHANGED.

- A. "Christian" is a name above all names (c. **Col. 1:18**) → **Ac. 11:26; Ac. 26:28**
- B. When one wears well the name of Christ, God is glorified (**1 Pet. 4:16**) **1 Jn. 5:2**
- C. Christians are → *children of God* **Rom. 8:16** (& thus *heirs*), & we should love & obey Father always \\\

XI. OUR CLOTHING IS DIFFERENT!

- A. We have put of the *old man* whose life was soiled with sin's stains, & put on *the new man*, **Col. 3:9-10**
- B. In baptism, were you aware that you were *putting on Christ* – clothing your mind & your life with His desires for your life, not your own. (c. **Gal. 3:27**)
- C. When we are *wrapped up in Christ*, our speech will be pure, in our work we will be diligent, He will control our play, our dress (it will not be dictated by the lewd fashions of the world!)

Concl.

XII. OUR ETERNAL DESTINY IS DELIGHTLY & DRASTICALLY ALTERED!

- A. There is a v-a-s-t difference in eternal destinations comparing those who will become children of God and determine to be changed by God in obedience to His will & those contently continue along the course of this world. **Mt. 25:46**
- B. Do you need to do some changing **RIGHT NOW** ?
 - 1. To become a Christian
 - 2. Or do you need to come back to Christ
 - 3. **2 Cor. 6:2**, *For He says, In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation have I helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*)