

"Change"

"People in Need of CHANGE—Helping People in Need of Change" – Pt. 1

June 23, 2024

"As we listen to eternity, we realize that the kingdom is about God radically changing people, but not in the self-absorbed sense our culture assumes. Christ came to break our allegiance to such an atrophied agenda, and call us to the one goal worth living for. His kingdom is about the display of his glory and people who are holy. This is the change he came, lived, died, and rose to produce. This is the life and work He offers us in exchange for the temporary glories we would otherwise pursue. This kingdom agenda is intended to control our hearts and transform our lives.

Notice that Christ connects the good news to a call to repentance. The Bible defines repentance as a radical change of heart, resulting in a radical change in the direction of one's life. It is only possible if there is power to change. How cruel it would be to call sin-paralyzed people to repent without giving them the power to do so! This is where the message gets most exciting. Jesus is saying, "Because I have come, lasting heart change can take place." Yes, the world is terribly broken, but the king has come, bringing the power and glory of his kingdom with him! ...

Change is possible! You can stand amid the harsh realities of sin and have hope that will never disappoint you. That marriage can change. That teenager can change. That church can change. That friendship can change. That bitterness can be put to death. That compulsion can be broken. That fear can be defeated. That stony heart can be made soft, and sweet words can come from a once-acid tongue. Loving service can come from a person who once was totally self-absorbed. People can have power without being corrupt. Homes can be places of safety, love, and healing. Change is possible because the King has come!" **Paul Tripp**, "Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands", p. 5-6

...Summer Study Subtitle: "People in Need of Change - Helping People in Need of Change"

"CHANGE" ...what a Concept!!

Def. - *to make the form, nature, content, future course, etc., of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone; to transform or convert* (from [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com))

A Romans 8 ANTICIPATION

...Romans 8 is set in a setting of WAR! ...a Setting of CONFLICT (ie, forces that oppose and that are not 'wanting' the same thing in human existence) ...

Rom 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation... ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed... ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven AGAINST all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men*

...We are introduced to a Setting that takes a Particular Power!! ...and a place where some things are AGAINST Each Other!

Rom 1:21-24 *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity,*

...The abandoning and detaching of man's life from God (as God, as Central, as Ultimate!)—
Produced a condition far more weighty, powerful, influential and controlling than the average person recognizes!!

Rom 7:8-24 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. ... ¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. ¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, ... ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ... ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
...There's something IN ME that produces something! ...
There is an Internal Bacteria that's Pumping Out "COVETOUSNESS" (wayward desires & wants)!!!
...v. 15 - Is the confession of each of us who struggle with something that needs to CHANGE!!

— THIS is the Background & Description that Delivers Us to the Address of Romans 8!!

Rom 8:1-17

v. 1 **"There is THEREFORE NOW..."** ...Into This Arena of War & Active, Opposing Forces--there is a Moment Where Something Has Happened and Something Has INTRUDED!! ...We arrive at this moment in the History of the Race of Adam—Under a “New Deal” and with “New Equipment” in the Warfare of Life

— This "THEREFORE NOW" announcement has ALTERED the Way We Do Life!! ...the "Manner" of HOW we do the Inner & Outer Dimensions of Our Lives! ...what the Bible Calls our "WALK"

Rom 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Rom 8:3-5 ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

...In Both these verses there is a description of an “historic & definitive act”—Done nowhere else in human history—by Jesus Christ!

Notice: **Human “flesh” + Divine Law = UNRIGHTEOUSNESS (Revealed)!** ...There is No Human Invention or Remedy to This Equation—

...BUT ...in both these passages—Something NEW Has Dawned!! ...a “Walking in newness of life”
...a “walk [that is] not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit”

Rom 8:22-23

...So how does Romans 8 inform our “Right-Now-Expectations”??

- **I expect to still experience the “Groaning, the futility, and the pains of creation”** ...I Expect the Various "Forces of Unrighteousness" (ie, the world, the flesh, & the devil) to be encountered in this "Now-and-Not-Yet" Chapter of Existence!

- ***I expect to experience something NEW! ...the FIRSTFRUITS of the Spirit!***

KEY PHRASE (to be Unpacked) — **“Walk by the Spirit”** ...as in **Gal 5:16** “Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh”

...It is a command that is connected to Human Effort, Human Activity— “Walking” involves some Mechanics: physical actions (steps) ...thinking & deciding—which is informed by “will & want-to”; which is influenced by beliefs, affections, & desires!

PROMO: “Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands - People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change”

...A New day Has Dawned!! ...a New Day in this “Earthly Conflict” called “Life” —or our familiar word— ‘Yasab’ (Dwelling in God’s Earth) ...

...It is a Day of New Resources & Weaponry! ...a Day to Anticipate Freedom, Change, Growth, Renewal, Fruit... — All of These via the Human Engagement of “Walking by the Spirit”!!

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