

A Wonderful Change

***Ecclesiastes 3:1-10** - To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:² A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which 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 together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;⁶ A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;⁷ A time to rend, 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 hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? ¹⁰ I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. (KJV)*

Giving honor to God, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the children of God. Good morning to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As we look at today's text, Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, verses 1-10, we learn that one thing is constant in life; that is change. As a nation, we have endured four years of leadership under the Donald Trump and Mike Pence administration. On Wednesday, January 20th, 2021 our nation witnessed the inauguration of our newly elected President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris. President Biden served 8 years as Vice-President under the leadership of President Barak Obama. Biden is now the president of the United States. Vice President Kamala Harris is the first person of color to serve as Vice-President. She is also the first woman to serve in the role of Vice-President. To God be All the Glory for the Wonder Changes that have taken place.

In preparation for this message, I took the time to look up the term "change". The definition of change is to become or make different. It also means to exchange, substitute, or replace something. The tense of the verb "change" means to pass from one state to the other. The term "change" is synonymous with the term "conversion" which means to change.

Saints, when we look back over our lives, we ought to see some of the benefits of the changes that has taken place. In fact, I would like to share a few points with you, before I conclude, as it relates to change.

First, we ought to **Embrace Change**. In other words, embrace the change in our ability to trust God for the changes in our lives. Yes, you see in Proverbs 3:5-6, the word teaches us to ⁵Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (What are some ways that you have embraced change?)

Secondly, we ought to **Learn from Change**. Change our mindset. Operate from the positive aspect of understanding that the Lord hasn't given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. Beloved, the Apostle Paul declares in Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the

renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (How have you changed your mindset?)

Thirdly, beloved; we ought to **Reflect the Change**. Somebody ought to be able to see that Something on the inside; working on the outside, has brought about the manifestation of a change in your life. Good God Almighty. A Brand New Walk; A Brand New Talk... I looked at my hands and they looked new. I looked at my feet and they did too. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

You see in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 we learn *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation”*.

You may be sitting on your bedside; and can testify “I ain’t what I ought to be” But Thank God, “I’m not what I used to be.” A change has taken place in your life. I’m a witness that God will wash away the sin in your life if you’ll just repent and trust Him. (I can see why Mary and Martha were excited about serving the Lord; Mary sit at the Lord’s feet and made a decision that she was going to work.) Luke 10:38-42

In closing. I’m coming on in now. I see a landing strip... (Stay with me)

If the caterpillar (worm) never goes into the cocoon; HE OR SHE NEVER GOES THROUGH A METAMORPHOSIS (which is a change) then we would never get to see the beautiful transition of the HEAVENLY butterfly.

Teddy Pendergrass said, “Wake Up Everybody No More Sleeping in Bed; No More Backward Thinkin’.. Time for Thinkin’ Ahead.” The World won’t get no better if we just let it be. The world won’t get no better, we gotta’ change it yeah, just you and me.

Michael Jackson said, “I’m starting with the man in mirror” I’m asking him to change his ways. No message could have been any clearer. If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make the change.

Or was the Song writer that Said...*I was born by the River* in a Little Old Tent, and just like the River, I’ve been Running Ever Since. It’s been a long time Coming, but I know....., A Change is Going to Come (O’ Yes it Is)

I want to run on and see what the end’s Going to Be.

I want to see my Grandfather’s Face, I want to see my Father’s Face, I want to see my Grandmother’s Face, I want to see my Great, Great Grandfather’s Face. I want to see the faces of the Great Saints that have gone on to Glory from Bethel AME Church. But if I get to the Gate, and I don’t see them first, **I want the Lord to open my eyes, and let me lift my voice, So I can Sing...**

*O I want to see Him, Look Upon His Face, There to Sing Forever of His Saving Grace.
On the Streets of Glory, Let me Lift my Voice, Things all Past, Home at Last, Ever To
Rejoice.*

*You may be going through a change, but my bible tells me that “Weeping may endure
through the night, but Joy Cometh in the Morning Time.”*

I read somewhere, and I'm so Glad about it ... Trouble don't last always.

I want to Go to the Place where Job declared, “The wicked shall Cease from Troubling
and my weary Soul, Be at Rest.”

I want to sit around the table of brotherhood with my friends and say, “I've been
young and now am Old, but never have I seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed
begging bread.

When I think about change - I don't have to sit back and wonder how I made it over.

John 3:16, says “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” I encourage you to accept the
Lord Jesus Christ today. A Wonderful Change is about to take place in you. Hallelujah, Amen.