



The following notes are for a sermon given by Wayne Flowers at Smythe Street Church on Sunday October 27th, 2019.

Time for a Change

Introduction:

In a few weeks time...Watching Ebenezer Scrooge. Then George Bailey.
I watch them every year. Why? I love the story line.
Someone's life was changed!

This pales in comparison to the transformational work the Holy Spirit does in our lives!!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! 2nd Corinthians 5:17

I love to see the gospel of Jesus touch a heart and transform it!

Here are some general observations about personal change...

1. The hope for change hooks us, and the evidence of change inspires us.

Advertisers know a great line is "it literally changed my life."

- So much of this is shallow!
- Leaves us disillusioned and discouraged with change.

2. Real and lasting transformation is a witness to the power of the gospel.

Bible examples...

- Read the story of Jesus in the gospels.
 - The woman at the well.
 - Her changed life touched the entire village.
 - Peter's story is one of going from a tempestuous hot-head to a solid rock for Jesus.
- Saul of Tarsus – the persecutor of the church – became Paul the Apostle!
- Paul preached and lived the message of a transformed life!!
- Read the writings of Paul and you will be convinced that real transformation is at the core of the message of Jesus.

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
Romans 6:4

And yet...some of you are discouraged by the lack of lasting change in your life – or the life of someone you love and care for.

Here is something you need to know...

We do not give up on each other!
God will not give up on you!
You should not give up either!

Three things for you know about change that can help you...

1. Face the truth.

Ask God to help you identify and own the things that need to change.

Change often begins with a deep discontentment.

A hollow emptiness in our soul that cries out for more of God.

We are troubled and bothered by what should not be.

(Don't be too soft on the need for change!!!)

We are challenged and inspired by what can be.

We have often heard it said that change will happen when the pain of staying the same is greater than the pain of change.

2. It starts in the heart.

External conformation does not mean real change has happened.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

There are three things I see in this passage about real change...

- a) Real change means a surrender of your life. (whose agenda?)
- b) Real change a rejection of the confinements of godless thinking. Break out of that mold!!!
- c) Real change begins on the depths of our being.

3. Real change is a journey.

We must accept the fact that we are being shaped by the work of the Holy Spirit daily.

Whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. 2nd Corinthians 3:16-18

The "veil" here is spiritual blindness to God's truth as seen in Christ.

What is the message here?

Keep your eyes on Jesus. Let his glory shine through you!!

More and more, we are changed into His glorious image.