

Changes In Life

Eddie Cooper

Many transitions are made in a lifetime. Leaving what was familiar and stepping into what may not be fully known can create some anxiety. However, life is filled with transitions. Not only are those transitions associated with movement from an old year to a new, but also with regard to day-to-day activities, school, jobs, relationships, economic status, etc. The thing that can make these transitions easier is through focusing on what **does not change**. In order to keep our bearings in life and to remain on the right path, we need to fix our eyes on what **remains constant**.

We read in Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I do not change..." The nation of Israel needed change – to return to God – and the encouragement to do so was based on the consistency of God's gracious and loving response when true penitence is present. God knows the heart and is eager to restore those willing to return.

We know that we can expect good gifts from God. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). Our Father never withholds from us what we need. Because of that, in the midst of a changing world, we are still trying to become what God wants us to be.

Let us pray every day that we allow God to have His way with us, so that our lives (in spite of changes) will possess the consistency of action that demonstrates the wisdom of living life His way. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).
- Gospel Gazette online -

Time is filled with swift transition -
Naught of earth unmoved can stand -
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Trust in Him who will not leave you,
Whatsoever years may bring,
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to Him cling.

Covet not this world's vain riches,
That so rapidly decay,
Seek to gain the heavenly treasures,
They will never pass away!

When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in glory
Your enraptured soul will view.

Jennie Wilson, 1904

If your faith fizzles before the finish, it was faulty from the start.

News & Notes

BIBLE STUDY TO BE DISMISSED HERE THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14TH: We are going as a group to support St. Clair Avenue's Gospel Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical: Glenn McMahan (in for tests). **The Orchards Rehab, East Liverpool:** Charlotte Mader (David Steff's sister). **At Home:** Alex Harless, Linda Parkes, Becky McKitrick, Russell Martin, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Sam Burdine, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox, Pepperberry Suites:** David McCoy. **Weston, WV:** Rick Beck.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

St. Clair Ave., E. Liverpool	Sept. 11-14.....	Terry Jones
Salem (Glen Easton)	Sept. 11-15.....	Gary Workman
Bridgeport, WV	Sept. 25-28.....	Clinton Rowand
CHESTER	Sept. 25-29.....	Tim Hatfield

Faith Despite Persecution

Approximately 64 A.D., The Great Fire of Rome devastated the city. If you were alive during that time, it would have had the sort of shock value that we all experienced in our own national tragedy. Before then, Christianity was growing. However, it was thought of as "just another religion" in the mixing pot of religions in Roman world.

But the fire changed everything! Some historians believe that it was started by the Roman emperor, Nero. Whether or not he caused the fire, to throw off his accusers Nero blamed it on Christians. Persecution intensified all throughout the Roman world. History is full of stories of how Christians faced this persecution without denying our Lord.

Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b).

Our Lord never promised that the Christian walk would be easy. But he did say that it will be worth it. So, no matter what the future holds in store, remember Jesus' promise: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20b).

- Larry Fitzgerald, Woodlawn church of Christ, Abilene, TX {Bulletin Digest} -



It is silence when your words would hurt,
Patience when your neighbor is curt,
Deafness when the scandal flows,
Thoughtfulness for another's woes,
Promptness when stern duty calls, and,
Courage when misfortune falls.

- Author Unknown -