

Time For A Change

INTRO: Change.

- The most exciting thing for a pastor is to see people receive the Word and change!
- Change requires information & application!

Matthew 4:17 – *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

- **“Repent”** – [Imperative] change of mind; change by choice.

Believers Church at Glenville.

- We’re in a period of change.
- It will be this way till the rapture.
 - Some will embrace change. [Joe (Go) Grant]
 - Others will try to ignore it. [The plodders]
 - Still others will run from it! [Where there’s no pressure!]

Why do people resist change?

- *“Any change at any time for any reason is to be deplored.”* (Duke of Cambridge in the late 1800s)
- **Threatened by the loss of something valuable.** (1) Security. (2) Money. (3) Control.
- **Satisfaction** – where they are. (illustration: not willing to take a better job because you’re satisfied with the way things are)
- **Tradition.** (Illustration: the end of the roast being cut off before cooking)

Change happens when people hurt enough that they have to, learn enough that they want to, receive enough that they are able to.

- I’m not sure this is always true. Some choose to do nothing regardless.

Matthew 13:24-31 – Wheat & tares.

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵“but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶“But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷“So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ ²⁸“He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹“But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰‘Let both grow to-

gether until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' "

- The field owner sowed good seed. An enemy sowed tares.
 - **Nelson Study Bible Note:** Tares closely resemble wheat, but are poisonous to human beings. They are indistinguishable from wheat until the final fruit appears. Farmers would weed out tares just before the wheat harvest.
- As they grew, both wheat and tares appeared.
- The servants wanted to pull out the tares, but the owner knew that would damage the wheat also.
- **Jesus' message:** don't judge evil now. God will take care of that later. [See 36-43]
- **Some other principles we can gather here:**
 - We have both wheat & weeds in us. [Not our spirit]
 - Weeds in your heart will produce weeds everywhere else. [Hearts defend our identity]
 - Don't try to fix yourself.

Ephesians 4:20-24 – *But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

- Don't try to fix it, but change the old for the new.

Romans 6:11-14 – *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

- **“reckon”** – to consider, take into account, weigh, meditate on; to judge; to determine, purpose, decide. [This word deals with reality. If I reckon that my bank book has \$25 in it, it has \$25 in it. Otherwise I am deceiving myself. This word refers to facts not suppositions.]
- **“reign”** [vs. 12] – exercise influence or control over.