

## Change

**Intro:** As we close out 2020 our natural inclination is to start thinking about change. We are hoping for change in some ways, and scared of change in others. Perhaps the change that we should seek lies in our relationship with Christ

### 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Two things to pull from this passage about change:

Heavenly Mindsets change our present predicaments

Salvation, at its core, is all about change. Change that we should embrace, and not shy away from.

Heavenly mindsets:

Our plans vs God's plans:

Change is inevitable because we often do not know the plans of God due to not being in fellowship with Him.

James 4:13-17

Judges 7

Gideon's Army: From 32,000 to 300.

God changes our plans, **always** for His own glory

Changing what we dwell on inevitably changes our attitudes:

Philippians 4:8

As we change to a heavenly mindset, we inevitably change what we are seeking after.

Colossians 3:1-2

### **Change is the Core of the Gospel:**

1 Cor 6:9-11

**Justification:** (Being brought from a legal standing of condemnation to a legal standing of righteousness through Jesus) - Change is a fundamental part of getting saved

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Titus 3:7

that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Sanctification:** (Growing in likeness with Christ)

2 Timothy 2:21 (vessels of honor and dishonor)

Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Romans 6:1-14

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

**Glorification:** (The permanent removal of sin)

We are guaranteed Glorification!

Romans 8:30

Let's revisit our mindset options for a moment, with glory as a background.

Philippians 3:20

Have you been eager for anything other than the end of 2020 lately? If our mindset is a heavenly one, it is easier to be eager about things because our assurance of the absence of sin ultimately makes day to day living a lot easier.

But how many of you are depressed, stressed, or just plain tired? Where is your mindset, and are you eager for a savior or just a break from 2020?

**Application:**

Meet the new year with plans of change.

No one can develop a relationship without change. Friends, spouse, etc...all require change. Growing closer to Christ requires us to change.

Don't be afraid of change, and don't be eager for worldly change. Yearn for godly change!

Embrace the gospel.

Get saved

Get sanctified

Grow.

Develop your talents and gifts. Growth requires change. Study, accountability, etc.

Special Discipleship classes

Serve.

Put your gifts to use. If you are not serving, do it. We are called to be on mission.

Be fearless.

Do not allow circumstantial change to intimidate you (Matthew 6:27 - asks a really good question: who can add to life by worrying). God has things under control. (Psalm 135:6 - God does what He wants). Go do the thing that God has called you to do!