

In search of...

Truth & Right

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Roll With the Changes

Ever since God created the heavens and the earth, things have been changing. We studied about the first fundamental change this morning—sin coming into the world, and mankind's loss of innocence. Since the fall, there has been death and disease and all manner of things that make our existence here unpleasant. It is because of THAT change that another change had to be made: Jesus had to come and be the perfect sacrifice for sins. His death changed everything; now, we can have our sins remitted. Now, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. Now, we have a new law and a new covenant by which we can draw near to our Creator.

Changes and new beginnings are natural. Before the Lord flooded the earth, there was no rain; but now, it rains, snows, hails, and then some. The weather is not (entirely accurately)

predictable. But it is natural. It is just how the world works now. Consider another promise that God made to Noah after the flood waters and receded: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." (Gen. 8:22)

Year after year, autumn comes and the leaves fall and the plant life either dies or goes into hibernation. Then, several months later, the trees and flowers spring back to life again, blooming and making everything pretty and green. That's a new beginning. That's visible change. So why do we act sometimes like everything is always supposed to stay the same year after year? Vivianna has six teeth right now and Jessica & I are overjoyed, but if she only ever had six teeth, we would be

worried sick. Thus is our way of life. Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, is credited with saying "The only thing that is constant is change." While I do not dispute his observance of the world around us and its mechanics, I humbly rebut with Heb. 13:8; "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Understanding that change happens naturally does not do anything to take away from the fact that it is scary sometimes. We as human beings are creatures of habit, and once we get into a comfortable routine, we do not want to leave it. Why are new beginnings so intimidating? Well, for one, it means leaving something that we know and are used to behind and facing the unknown. The unknown is terrifying to a great many people, and that is why so many fear death, because of their ignorance or unbelief of the Scriptures. "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Rev. 21:2-4)

If we trust in God and His Word, then what awaits us after this life is not unknown and is nothing to fear, as long as we are faithful to the Lord. But not knowing what comes next is not the only reason why some resist change; it could be that they fear failure, and do not think that they are up to the task. Sadly, this is why some do not turn to Christ, even though they have heard and believe the truth. Jesus spoke about counting the cost of discipleship: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26-27)

So, is change frightening? Yes. But not only is it a natural process, as we've seen, it is also a necessity. Just try to imagine a world where people do not change. Sadly I can say that I have seen brief examples here and there- men in their forties who are still intellectually and emotionally teenagers, women who have grandchildren and yet reject that role, striving to be someone else. As we grow older, our roles in life must change as well. Aging athletes (if they are smart) do not keep playing to the point of being detriments to their teams; they move into a coaching role.

Along these lines is the

thought of Heb. 5:12, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food," Maturing as Christians means at some point becoming teachers and moving past the basics.

Most often when speaking of how it is necessary to have new beginnings in life, we would reference putting on Christ in baptism, just as Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born again. However, another very example to use is that when this life is finally over, one last change will take place- an absolutely necessary one.

"I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality." (1 Cor. 15:50-53)

What a wonderful new beginning to look forward to! Are you in your life "hastening the day of the Lord?" Be thankful that God does not change, and be ready by clinging to Him whenever this life throws you a curveball.

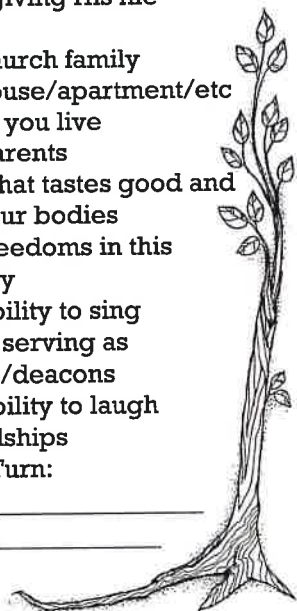
Jarred Currence

Dear God,

thank you for being there
when nobody else was.

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- The house/apartment/etc where you live
- Our parents
- Food that tastes good and fuels our bodies
- Our freedoms in this country
- The ability to sing
- Those serving as elders/deacons
- The ability to laugh
- Friendships
- Your Turn:



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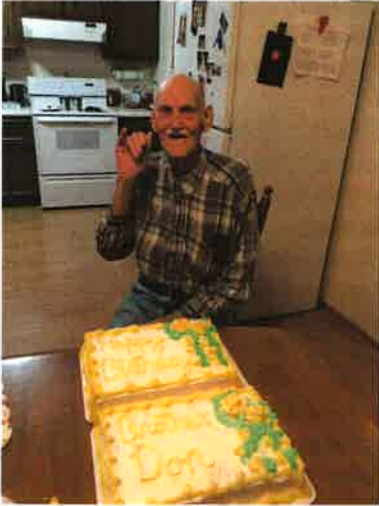
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Fifth Sunday Photos

Every fifth Sunday of the month, we try to highlight some of great things happening around our congregation that were captured through photography. If you happen to get a good picture of a member doing work for the Lord, please feel free to post it on our Facebook page or tweet us @wellsburgchurch #fifthsundayphotos or e-mail us at minister@truthandright.org with a little description of what is happening in the picture.



May 27 was Don Coen Sr.'s 91st birthday! His daughter, Carol, helped him celebrate the milestone with several other members.

"Grey hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life." – Prov. 16:31

On May 2, there was a work day on the building. Several brothers came and helped, including Griffin Smith. Thanks to all who took part!

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going." – Eccl. 9:10



Back in April, Emilio Muscedere obeyed the gospel and put on Christ in baptism!

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." – Luke 15:10