

## Change

“Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Change is the money we get back when we pay for an item and the price is less than we handed the cashier.

It is also to become different, or to make something different.

Perhaps the root of it is breaking away from sameness, duplication, or exact repetition. That is what God wants for his people.

He wants to change them from sinners to saints, from self-seekers to seek the best for others. He wants us to change from wanting our own way, to knowing that his way is the best of all.

The key is to embrace the now. This begins a journey of new discoveries, of shipwrecks raised, of archaeology revealed, of newness and freshness far beyond we ever imagined.

As Christians, we never want to look back and say, “I should have done that.” We must be able to walk forward saying, “I tried.” Sometimes it works, sometimes it is not, but missed opportunities will never return. We don't get a mulligan, a do-over, because the situation we go back to is never ever exactly the same.

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher who lived 500 years in the city of Ephesus before Jesus, and before Paul the Apostle founded a church there, said, “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man.”

Think about that. Missed opportunities will never return. Something is always different. Sometimes better, sometimes worse, but always different. The river might be deeper or wider, or more shallow or narrow in time of drought. We may be full of energy or tired, older or in a different situation. The weather conditions will never be the same.

Just ask the prehistoric hunger frozen in glacial ice. He missed his next meal because he missed a step.

Just ask the rich man who died and wanted to go back and warn his brothers to find God. It was too late. The opportunity would never present itself.

It probably comes down to eternity. We have a certain number of heartbeats, hours, days upon this earth. Eternity lasts forever, but we only get to see a part of it on earth.

How many seconds are there in eternity?" This was the question a king asked a wise young boy.

And the boy replied: "In the hinterlands of Pommerania, there is a mountain made of the hardest diamond. It's one hour deep into the earth, one hour up toward the sky, one hour long and one hour wide. To this mountain comes a little bird, once every hundred years, to sharpen its beak. And when this bird has worn away the whole mountain, the first second of eternity has passed."

The king realized that he had indeed found a person of great wisdom, and from that day on, the little shepherd boy lived in the palace in great honor, becoming a trusted friend and advisor to the king.

Sometimes we can get creative to make new opportunities. I love the movie moments when an actor is running so fast for the wall where there is no door, he just breaks a hole and keeps on going.

Milton Berle, the great comedian, joked, "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.

For Christians it is seeing the whole picture, asking for God's direction, and finding opportunity where there was none before. It is planning in one direction, and rejoicing when God has another plan.

Moses wanted to spend time with his grandchildren, but God said he wanted him to lead his people out of Egypt. The rich man tore down his barns to build more, then died before he could fill them.

Jesus says that he stands at the door (of our lives) and knocks. If we open the door, he comes in, dines with us and changes everything about us.

If we can embrace the fact that every day does not have to be the same, in fact rejoice that it is never the same, we will find joy and fulfillment, and see change as made possible by God a wonderful thing.

“Every day, writes Bob Feller, “is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is.

In the “big inning” God created the heavens and the earth. That’s a baseball quip from Genesis.

“Today is the first day of the rest of your life” was a poster I had in my dorm room in college. It is also a blueprint for freshness, for release of disappointment and regret, and a great plan for wonderful change.

“I hope,” writes actress Gillian Anderson, “everyone that is reading this is having a really good day. And if you are not, just know that in every new minute that passes you have an opportunity to change that.

She’s right. Reading, learning, especially from God’s word and from God who is the author of change, is a chance to be better, to make things better, to offer someone eternity.