

SEPTEMBER – “Change”

***While God and His saving intention never change,
everything He has created never stays the same.***

OPENING PRAYER. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. Holy God, You never change. Your love for the world is endless and the saving redemption of Jesus is forever. In our ever-changing world keep us strong in our faith in You and always faithful in our privileged task to declare Your marvelous deeds of bringing us to Your light of life. In Jesus' name. Amen

READ: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- ¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Church That Works, Part 1 “Building Foundations” and Part 2 “Changing Times”

“A recent joke tells of a college freshman stopping a young lady who was hurrying to class. ‘What’s the rush?’ he asks. ‘I’ve got to get to class before the textbook goes out of date,’ she replies. While the joke overstates our current situation, we must admit change is taking place at a faster pace than in years past.” (p. 10)

ASK

1. How have things changed for you, in your community, for your congregation over the past 5 years - 10 years -30 years?
2. Why does change make us feel anxious?
3. What hasn't changed for you through the years?

DISCUSS:

1. We live in an ever-changing world of fast paced information, stimulation saturation, cultures impaction, and people migration. It will not stop. But what, at the core of your faith life, has been helpful in being a Christian man or woman who shares the love of Jesus in all circumstances, in season and out of season?
2. For many of our congregations September is like a new year. All the Boards and ministries of the congregation start up again after summer’s break. If that’s true for you, at this meeting discuss some of the things you would like to see remain and/or change in the year to come? What will that look like? Who will be the one responsible to do it?

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA

Leader begins the prayer, then go around the table and have each person mention one blessing for which to thank God or one need to ask for God’s help, the leader then closes the prayer.

OCTOBER’S DEVOTION. “Strangers In Our Midst”. Who will the leader be?