
Atlantis Church of Christ + Jacona & Kwikkie St.

preacher's THE CHANGING WORLD

penpoints Raymond A. Leonard

The world about us is forever changing. It is either progressing, regressing, or transforming. It is in a constant state of flux. We have all witnessed this in our life time. Standards for health, medical care, education, and labour relations have greatly improved during the last half century, but morals, crime, family relationships, community responsibility, good neighbourliness, and a host of others things have declined greatly during this same time period. I am amazed at just how far the world has moved both in making tremendous strides forward for the betterment of mankind, and sadly the swift movement in reverse to the decline and detriment of society. I have seen a world of changes in my life time, the majority of which bring me great joy, delight and happiness. But there is that other side which causes me grave concern, especially for the youth who are being raised in this ungodly, and immoral environment.

They are being raised in a world that greatly under values or completely rejects God and man's need for God and His divine guidance. The world today makes man the supreme ruler, with each person being encouraged to control their own destiny. The trouble with this is that throughout history the rule of man has never brought forth good, unless it has been based on the rule or word of God. Man is greedy, deceitful, weak, selfish, and incapable of directing his own steps (Jere. 10:23). The world would do well to learn this lesson quickly, and then to act accordingly. Wise king Solomon reveals the foolishness of man's wisdom in these thought penetrating words; "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). It is far easier to do wrong today than at any point in history, because wrong is accepted and most often excused as "personal freedom", "right of choice", or simply "man's liberty". While it is easy to do wrong, it is hard to do right, because right is not being taught. The standard has been set so low that in reality there is no standard as far as man is concerned. Jesus said that when iniquity abounds the love of many shall wax cold (Matt. 24:12). The love of truth has been replaced with the acceptance of error. The love for light has been changed for a desire for darkness. The love or desire for life has been changed to an obsession and craving for temporal pleasure. How did the world change so much so fast?

Many people in the world today falsely believe that God's commandments are to restrictive, and that they were given to man in order to eliminate all joy and fun from one's life so that we could then focus our attention on spiritual matters. How utterly foolish and ridiculous this notion is. Why would God create a world for us to dwell in and declared that it was "very good" (Gen. 1:31), if He did not want us to enjoy all of His creation during the time of our sojourn here? Jesus came the Bible tells us so that all of us could find true joy and happiness, both here and in the hereafter. Jesus declared; "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10). A restrictive life or a glorious, happy, and peaceful life which does God really want us to enjoy? The apostle Paul states; "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Tim. 6:6). God desires that we live according to His words of truth, to His standard of morals and righteousness, and that we be wholeheartedly content living the life that He has prescribed for us. He wants us to forsake engaging in the pleasures of sin for a season, and to resist Satan with every fibre of our being. We are to "abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Rom. 12:9).

The apostle John wrote; "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I Jn. 2:15-17). When the Bible commands us not to love the world, it is urging us to be separate from that which is opposed to God. We are not to love things that work against God nor the things of God. The world is changing, make certain that it does not change you and your relationship with God.

Someone has said; "The actions of men are the best interpreters of their thoughts". Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action. A thought worth remembering

This is the last bulletin until we return from the states. Pray for our success and safety, and we will do the same for you.

EACH DAY OF LIFE

Every day as the blazing sun goes down,
we should stop and soberly reflect;
On the day that is about to pass,
and words of thanks to God direct.

We should thank Him for our physical life,
for all the blessings He sends our way;
Thanking Him for the strength we have,
to engage in useful labour every day.

Every day on this earth that we abide,
is a day of wonderment and cheer;
An opportunity if we will take the time,
many pleasant things for us to hear.

Satan may placed obstacles in our way,
making our jobs more difficult at best;
During the time of night's sweet repose;
we can give our mind and body rest.

As Christians good works we all should do,
this is a command God to us has given;
Thus we are not to be slothful or lazy,
but with purpose we should be driven.

Do not allow Satan to get in your way,
or allow him to cause you to fall;
Remember that Christ is stronger than he,
and that it is Christ who did you call.

Each day of life is a true blessing grand,
a time to live and to give God glory;
We should think upon the good and pleasant,
and not the wicked, evil, and gory.

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