



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“To reach the younger generations with God’s unchangeable truths, we must not ignore change but we must pray, plan and then embrace it.”

Embrace Change

November of each year, is the open enrollment time for health plans that are starting January 1st of the next year. Where I work was no exception. This time the presentation was entitled “Embrace Change”. I thought to myself here comes major changes that we will be forced to follow for 2018.

I must admit that I am a creature of habit. I do not like change. For the past 35 years, I have worn the same color pants, socks and shoes; black. I have eaten the same thing for breakfast. I have carried the same lunch box with basically the same thing for lunch. I have put up the Christmas decorations the same way every year. I have lived in the same house for 30 years, which is only five miles from where I grew-up and now work. I have worked at the same job, at the same desk and in the same chair for 22 years. I still use a house phone and printed maps on trips. I have kept the same wife for 37 years.

This past year was filled with changes for everyone. A new President in the government and at work is trying to change many changes. Self-driving cars are now changing how we think about being on the road. Google, Alexa and others are changing how we turn on things, order things, get directions, or find answers to any question. The definition of marriage has changed. Personal identity is no longer safe. Schools are changing how they teach math and have dropped cursive writing. Two great hurricanes and fires have changed the lives of millions. Churches have changed from “All are welcome” to protection against intruders. Billions had life changing events because of births, deaths, marriage, divorce, health and accidents. Billions had life-changing jobs, churches, schools and where they live.

Sometimes, we believe that change is ungodly. Some faiths do not use electric or cars. Some churches do not allow drums or taped music. Some churches have dress codes and use hymnals. A church sign stated; “We do not have a contemporary service because our God does not change.” But more than ever churches are facing the issue of making changes to keep and increase membership.

The one thing that has not changed in 2017 or in any year is God and His Word. “For I am the LORD, I change not”; Mal 3:6 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” Heb 13:8 “He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Heb 13:5 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away.” Matt 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33 Our God is immutable. The Immutability of God is an attribute that God is unchanging in His character, will, and covenant promises. Everything around you may change but you stand firm that Jesus loves you and will never forsake you.

What 2018 will bring is unknown. One thing for certain is that there will be change. We must decide when to resist change, change change, cause change, or embrace change. Knowing what to do can be very scary. So we must look up to the heavens and say “For 2018, not my will, but Thy will be done”.

Charles L Stambaugh

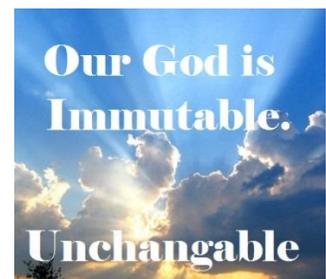
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“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” I Cor 15:52

This is the change I will truly embrace.



EMBRACE CHANGE
Our 2018 Health Plan



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