

Some Things Never Change

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Prov. 3:13-22 - What comes to the man who gains wisdom?
 - 1. We are happier and appreciate the experience of happiness more.
 - 2. Wisdom is more precious to us than any material thing, including gold.
 - 3. With wisdom we can extend the quantity and quality of our lives.
 - 4. With wisdom we can have a peaceful, abundant spiritual life.
 - 5. The Lord established this world by wisdom.
 - 6. Exercising wisdom in our lives will bring grace and hope to our lives.
- B. Wisdom will be found embedded in the truths we learn in life.
 - 1. So what truths will teach us wisdom?

I. LIFE'S NOT FAIR

- A. "If you expect the world to be fair with you because you are fair, you're fooling yourself. That's like expecting the lion not to eat you because you didn't eat him." (John Spence) - Ecc. 7:15, 8:14
 - 1. From the day we are born to the day we die, life isn't fair.
 - a. Some are rich and others poor.
 - b. Some are intelligent and others learn slowly.
 - c. Some are well fed and some are starving.
 - d. Some experience good fortune and some can't catch a break.
 - e. Some are free and others enslaved.
 - f. Some are healthy and some are chronically, painfully ill.
- B. God never said that life would be fair.
 - 1. God promises that if we seek Him, He will take care of us - Matt. 6:33
 - 2. God promises that He will be fair in salvation - Acts 10:34-35
 - 3. God promises that everyone will be judged fairly - 2Cor. 5:10
- C. If we don't expect life to be fair, then we will not be as hurt with disappointment when unfairness happens.

II. WE CANNOT CHANGE THE PAST

- A. Time for humankind moves forward, never backward.
 - 1. There are many who want to revise history, but that simply means to ignore the parts they don't like.
 - 2. The truth is that once something is in the past, it is fixed forever and cannot be changed or undone.
- B. Once our words have been said and deeds have been done, we can't un-say or undo them - Psalm 141:3-4
- C. What is in the past is out of reach, we have no access to that time, and there is nothing that can be done about it - Phil. 3:13-14
 - 1. If we think about the fact that we can't change the past, it will help us avoid bad decisions in the present for the future.
 - 2. It will empower us to move on to things we can do something about.

III. WORDS HAVE MEANINGS

- A. Remember the old saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me”?
 - 1. The truth is that words can be very painful and destructive, because words have meanings.
- B. Words constitute one of three categories of sins we can commit
 - 1. Matt. 12:36-37; Eph. 5:6; 1Tim. 6:3-4
 - 2. Learning that words have meanings will help us choose edifying words and avoid the harmful ones.

IV. CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES

- A. Newton's third law of motion states: “For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.”
 - 1. The physical laws often reflect spiritual law
 - 2. Gal. 6:7-8; Matt. 15:19
 - 3. There is not a choice we make that doesn't first originate in the heart.
- B. Understanding that choices have consequences will help us measure our choices carefully before we make them.

V. SOMEONE WILL OPPOSE US FOR DOING WHAT IS RIGHT

- A. We have an ersatz proverb today: “No good deed goes unpunished.”
 - 1. Jesus told us that we are going to be opposed.
 - 2. Matt. 5:11-12; John 15:19, 17:14
- B. Understanding that we are going to be opposed for doing right will help us prepare to do right regardless.

VI. LEARNING THE HARD WAY HURTS

- A. “Experience is the best teacher, but only the worst students need the best teacher.”
 - 1. There are two different ways to learn in life:
 - a. We learn from someone teaching us
 - b. We learn through experience
 - 2. More often than not, we choose to learn through experience, and often those experiences are unpleasant and expensive.
- B. Scripture teaches us to learn the easy way.
 - 1. Eph. 6:1; Prov. 2:1-12, 20-22
 - 2. When we understand that learning the hard way hurts, we will seek to learn from others first.

VII. THINGS CHANGE UNEXPECTEDLY

- A. Just when we think we have life figured out, when we think we have all of our ducks in a row, something happens to undo it.
 - 1. Life is unpredictable and things change - Prov. 27:1; Luke 12:19-20
 - 2. We expect our lives to go one way, but they often end up quite different than we planned - Ecc. 3:1-8
- B. God's word does not change; it is perfectly suited for every contingency.

1. Heb. 13:8; 2Tim. 3:16-17
- C. Understanding that things change will adjust our expectations for the unpredictable future and prepare us to deal with the unexpected things according to God's word.

VIII. EVERYONE DIES

- A. "There are things that we don't want to happen but have to accept, things we don't want to know but have to learn, and people we can't live without but have to let go." (Nancy Stephan)
 1. This is perhaps the most unalterable truth of life.
 - a. Science theorizes that it can prolong life indefinitely.
 - b. Even if our bodies were to be able to live indefinitely, one day we could be involved in an accident that would end our life.
- B. The Bible teaches that everyone will eventually die - Heb. 9:27; Ecc. 3:20
 1. If we understand that everyone dies, we will purposefully seek to prepare ourselves and others, especially those we love, for death, too.

Conclusion:

- A. Things that will never change in this world:
 1. Life is not fair.
 2. The past cannot be changed.
 3. Words have meanings.
 4. Choices have consequences.
 5. Someone will oppose Christians for doing what is right.
 6. Learning the hard way hurts.
 7. Things change unexpectedly.
 8. Everyone dies.
- B. Some Things in Life Never Change
Some things in life never change
Sometimes in life you don't find reasons
Some moments in life are not forgotten
And they become memories
Sometimes people in life are part of you
And those people are always special and unforgettable
When you let these people go
You never lose them
Because you find them living in you
(By an unknown author: idlehearts.com)
- C. And so it is with our Lord Jesus Christ - Col. 1:26-27