

Change You Can Believe In!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- popular 2008 presidential campaign slogan, “Change You Can Believe In”
 - but politics usually don’t bring change you can believe in, because politicians don’t keep all their promises (proposals)
 - illus.: Allan, when it comes to your salvation, don’t count on me, because I’m a man, and I’ll let you down at some point
- lesson: Change You Can Believe In – real change you can believe in – word of God

➤ The gospel is a message of change!

- Lk. 5:36-39 Jesus’ kingdom a kingdom of change
 - vs. 36-38 Christ’s kingdom is new, and would be different
 - have to change to be in the kingdom
 - vs. 39 many not willing to change, but satisfied with the old
 - if not want to change, not want to be in Christ’s kingdom
- - Lk. 24:46-47 repentance for the forgiveness of sins – change of heart, outward change - turn
 - Lk. 13:3, 5 repent or perish
 - must change to be forgiven, not perish – an unchanging person is a lost person
 - saying: “Resistance to change is a dead-end street. . . .” (Donald Clark, 1997)
- - illus.: prodigal son – change, not to sin, live righteously
 - took his inheritance early, spent in on sinful living, broke, ate with swine, returned to his father, repented, confessed sin
 - change (repentance): turn from sin, confess faults, live righteously
 - application: like the prodigal son, we must change our lives, turn from sin to obey righteousness
- When you became a Christian, you underwent change!
 - overview: process of becoming Christian is a process of change
 - believe (Heb. 11:6), repented (Acts 2:38), confessed (Acts 8:38), baptized (Mk. 16:16)
- - Col. 2:11-12 change that occurs – faith in the working of God (change God works in your life)
 - circumcised, old cut off – change
 - buried with Christ, in baptism – change
 - raised up with Christ, through faith in the working of God – change
 - 2 Cor. 5:17 “new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come”
 - illus.: baby’s birth v. being born again spiritually
- - application: must have a desire to change, obey God, submit, be changed by God, live a different life
 - saying: “It’s not that some people have willpower and some don’t. It’s that some people are ready to change and others are not” (James Gordon, M.D.)
 - most people reject change, but Christians welcome it, to better conform to God’s word

- **As a Christian, you constantly undergo change!**
 - **Phil. 2:12 Christians:** “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”
 - constantly change, guided by God’s word, to be a better Christians today, than yesterday

- - **out with the old, in with the new** - Julissa, popular phrase we hear and read - e.g., new years
 - **Eph. 4:17, 20, 23-24** renewed in **spirit of mind, put on the new self** – change
- - **Col. 3:1, 3, 5, 9, 10** **put on new self, renewed, knowledge** – change, **word**

- - **illus.: disciples change to live by teacher’s teachings** – Jesus, Teacher, change
 - **boss, teacher: job is to modify behavior** - bring about change in the lives of others
 - **student: if unwilling to change**, never learn, never grow, never become a better person
 - **application:**
 - **Jesus is our Teacher** (Matt. 26:18), the **purpose** of His teachings is **change**
 - **as His disciples we must change to live according to His teaching**

- - **illus.: rich young ruler** – continual change as God’s child to improve in our service
 - **ruler: had kept** the commandments from youth, **asked Jesus** what to do to inherit eternal life
 - **Jesus: one thing lack**, “sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me”
 - **ruler: became very sad, for he was extremely rich**
 - **Jesus: hard for wealthy** to enter the kingdom of God, “**easier for a camel** to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God”
 - **application:**
 - **rich young ruler was not willing to change** to become more fruitful in his service to God, probably lost his soul unless he finally repented
 - **we must continually change** to improve in our service to God
 - **when we stop** changing, we will begin to slide backwards to perdition, and fall away unless we repent

- **At the resurrection, you’ll be changed for eternity!** – ultimate and final change, as we know it
 - **1 Cor. 15:50-53** resurrection, changed, **immortality** – **2 Cor. 5**

- - **Phil. 3:20-21** Jesus transform your body, into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of His power upon you – **1 Th. 4:14-17**

- - **application:**
 - if you **change in this life**, to be the **best Christian you can be**, Jesus will **change you at the resurrection, immortality** – gospel of change, become Christian, live as a Christian

- - **inv.:** change today, if you need to be baptized into Christ, or return to the truth as God’s child. . . .
 - **Change You Can Believe In** – stake your soul on – word of God (1 Th. 2:13)

- - **inv. song**