

Wilmington Emmaus

Volume 29 Issue 4

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QUINTESSENTIAL QUIGLEY!

Change is a word that each of us is somewhat afraid of. We like the way things are. But change is inevitable. I grew up in Clinton County and there have been a lot of changes in the county. In our lifetimes there are going to be **changes**. They are going to happen.

If you type the word **change** into a bible search you will get about 71 verses with some form of the word **change**. I have also read several quotes on **change** over the years. Between the scriptures and some quotes I have found, there are many that are very fitting for life or the circumstances we may face. Let us take a look at some of these.

Quotes first. “Any **change**, even a **change** for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts.” I am confident each of us have had some type of drawback or a discomfort that, after we look back over time, was definitely for the better.

“If we don’t **change**, we don’t grow, if we don’t grow, we aren’t really living.” This one gets me as I look back over the years at how cell phones came about and now connect us to everything. I always said I wouldn’t text or email and now everything I do is on my phone. I wonder how we would survive now without cell phones / Smart phones.

Christians are supposed not merely to endure **change**, nor even profit by it, but to cause it.

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot **change**, the courage to **change** the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

These are just a few of the quotes I have read, so now let us look at a couple of scriptures

1 Corinthians 7:17: “Never the less, each person should live as a believer in **WHAT-EVER** situation the lord has assigned to them, just as God

has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all of the Churches.”

In the above scripture it states we should always live as a believer in whatever situation (**Change**) we may encounter. We all know God is in control of everything. But one thing we need to remember is, **Change** is inevitable for us here on earth, but God will never **change**.

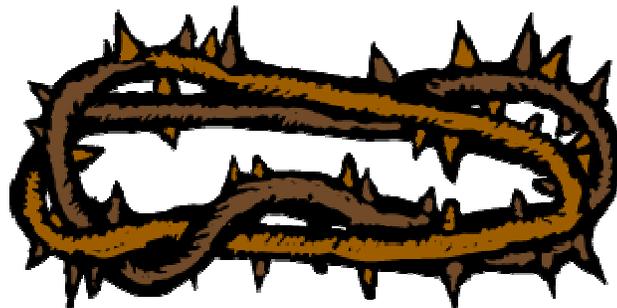
James 1:17: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of the heavenly lights, who **DOES NOT CHANGE** like the shifting shadows.”

In closing let us embrace change with our Christian faith knowing that GOD is in control. There is a saying that I sometimes take offense to and it is; you cannot teach an old dog a new trick. I disagree with this. I have embraced the new modern use of cell phones (smart phones). At first I didn’t want anything to do with them but now I am on my 3rd smart phone. Now I cannot imagine not having one. Remember **change** will come here on earth, BUT our God will never change.

De Colores!

Jerry Quigley

It's time to get your pilgrims registered for the June Women's Walk!



DEVOTION

"I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one..."

John 17:23

Jesus speaks about the intimacy he shares with his heavenly Father. He prays that his followers will also have this intimacy. The Father and Jesus are one: the Father lives in Jesus, and Jesus lives in the Father. In order for Jesus' followers to have this oneness with God, with Jesus, and with each other, Jesus must live within them.

In order for Jesus to live within us, we must have space for Jesus. So many things can distract us and fill our time and thoughts. We can easily give ourselves over to busyness.

But what we thought was taking up space also takes something of us with it. All of these thoughts, concerns, things, or problems eventually leave us empty.

Jesus does not leave us empty. He fills us with his life-giving love and hope. When we make a space for Jesus to dwell in us, we discover that the space grows to allow more love and less busyness. We feel at peace, at oneness with God and with our brothers and sisters around us.

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VOLUNTEER!

Volunteer! Pay it forward! Give back! What do those words mean to you?

We can live our lives inwardly—not reaching out into the unknown area far from our comfort zone, or we can take that chance. It can start with a simple smile at a stranger; a "Have a Nice Day!" to someone you don't know; a call to your minister asking what you can do to share with someone less fortunate than you. You can volunteer in a soup kitchen, a nursing home or a school.

There are more volunteering opportunities than you can ever imagine—all you need do is seek them out. They are waiting for you close to your home, across town or father away. Just look for something to use the gifts God gave you!

Emmaus needs your volunteering too: for Walk Weekends or before or after monthly Gatherings. Have you filled out a VOLUNTEER CARD at a monthly gathering? Be sure to do this as your first step toward paying it forward!

DE COLORES!

HAPPY EASTER!



Prayer was requested for these people at our March Gathering:

Dave & Dinah Bond

Nancy Boyer

Sue Brunacini

Carrie

Jim Cottie

Jacob Cragwell

Georgia

Laura & Anthony Hannah

Kathy Ingram's family

Thelma Kaysen

Beverly Maines

Roger Maines

Jim McMonigle

Michelle

Tim Miller

Delpha Mitchell

Paula Mitchell

Scott Moore

My wife

National Day of Prayer in WCH

Becky Newman

Nikki & Alex

Paula

Praise for God's Faithfulness

Luke Quigley

RJ Roush & Roush Family

Paul Shivers

Brad Smart

Kathy Snowball

Sue

TJ Turner family

Unspoken

Amanda VanDyke

Chester Wheeler

Randy & Amy Wellinghoff

At the Gathering, folks present names of friends and family in need of prayer. We pray for them at the Gathering and then, during communion, others are invited to take one of the cards and pray over the next month for the individual whose name appears on the card.

TABOR TALK

One of the joys of my life is teaching an online class which is called, "Old Testament Survey." The online environment offers the opportunity for me to interact with each one of my students. There is a great deal of give-and-take in those interactions. Recently, one of my students asked me a question about the Bible – specifically about the Old Testament and the nation of Israel, and their entrance into the Promised Land in the book of Joshua. This student was asking me for my thoughts on the differences between the first two battles in that book. You remember – the Battle of Jericho and the Battle of Ai (pronounced in two syllables "A" then "I").

In case you *don't* remember, let's review those two battles. (Check it out for yourself in Joshua 6 and 7!) Moses had led the people through the wilderness up to the River Jordan and was prevented by God from entering the Promised Land. God appointed Joshua to take his place as leader of the nation of Israel, and assigned him (Joshua) the task of crossing the Jordan and conquering the peoples of the land of Canaan. Joshua sent the spies to scout out the enemy in the first major arena of conflict, the city of Jericho. You remember the song anyway, don't you – "Joshua fit (fought) the battle of Jericho and the walls came tumblin' down!" The victorious Israelites then went up to the city of Ai, and thought they could win the battle over that little town with no sweat or at least very little effort. But this little community and its small army soundly defeated the army of the nation of Israel. Reeling in their defeat, Joshua and the people of Israel began to inquire of the Lord why they lost ground there. The Lord showed him very clearly what the problem was: He had given Joshua and the people specific instructions to burn and destroy everything in Jericho, except for the things of great value, which He wanted them to consecrate and dedicate and devote to service for Him. The people were NOT to take specific items of treasure from the city of Jericho for

their own little souvenirs. But one fellow named Achan had done just that. He saw this silver tea set and he thought, "This will look good on my dining room table. Nobody will miss just this one little set, and I'll just hide it until everything cools down anyway." So he took part of the treasure that was meant for the Lord and he hid it. And, to make a long story short, it was not until Joshua and the leaders of the people of Israel dealt with Achan that God restored His favor upon the nation and gave them victory over the army of Ai in the rematch!

As we think about that, the lesson seems very obvious: SIN (or rebellion against God, His Word, and the things of God!) HAS A SEVERE PENALTY, AND OFTEN THE CONSEQUENCES AFFECT MORE THAN JUST THE SINNER! And that is not just revealed here. Ask Jonah about that lesson. He learned it first in the bowels of a great ship and then in the belly of a "great fish". Ask Ananias and Sapphira (check out Acts 5). They learned it in the community of the saints, the early church!

But there is a deeper principle here: The difference in the two battles is also the difference in the enemies. At Jericho, the enemy was from without. The enemy was visible, alive and active. You could count them. You could tell just how strong they are. You could evaluate your strength accordingly. But the enemy at Ai was a different enemy. Oh, yes, the outward enemy is still there, but the REAL enemy is the one on the inside. The real battle at Ai was in the inner man of each man, woman, and child who was part of that nation of Israel. The real enemy for them took the forms of GREED, LUST (for things, not sex!), and COVETING!

As I have meditated on this passage, one thing I am discovering is that often-times it is easier for us to fight the obvious enemies than it is to fight the inner enemies. Our greatest temptations to sin are to follow our own desires, desires that we think nobody will ever

know about, see or detect. But I am here today to personally affirm to each person reading this that GOD HAS ALREADY WON THE VICTORY IN THE BATTLE OVER SIN – ALL SIN – AND HE IS IN THE BUSINESS OF HELPING US TO SEE THAT AND EXPERIENCE THE SPOILS OF VICTORY (if we celebrate on His terms, not ours!) No matter whether the sin be greed, pride, power, or lust, or envy, or gossip, or whatever the temptation may be, God is in the business of helping you who know Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to experience the victory over those things. The whole of the Christian life is a process of allowing God the right to control the celebration! Enjoy Him this week, won't you?

God bless....

Chuck Tabor

Chuck Tabor is a regular columnist for the Times-Gazette (Hillsboro).

LENTEN CONCERT

06 APRIL

2:00pm

St. Mary's

Episcopal Church

234 N High St., Hillsboro

John Glaze, Organ

Jennie Harner, Flute

Lynn Lowell, Piano

LENT

Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus

Wilmington United Methodist Church
PO Box 191
Wilmington, OH 45177

We're on the web:
www.wilmingtonemmaus.org

See you at the GATHERING:
April 8
Singing starts at
6:45pm
Wear your nametag!
Bring a snack to share!

DEVOTION

"When it began to be dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath."

- Nehemiah 13:19

No longer are stores closed on Sunday. No longer are sports practices or games put off to another day. Church on Sunday morning is too often a question mark upon awakening, not a sure thing. Often this day is as busy as the rest of the week.

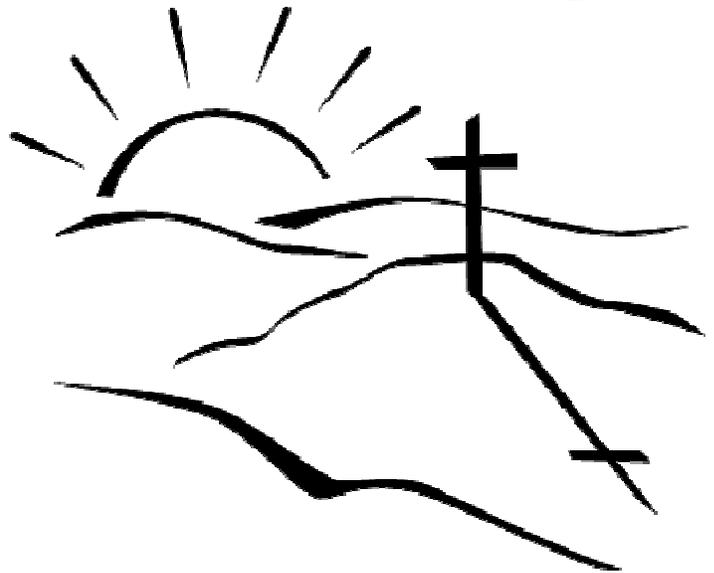
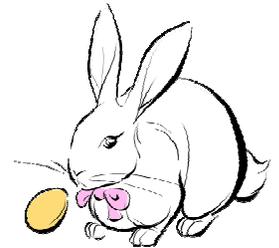
And we are lesser people for it. Keeping the Sabbath arises in Genesis 2, when God rested after six days from the work of creating the world. Later, Moses received these words as the fourth commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8). Nehemiah closed Jerusalem's gates to stop the flow of commerce, knowing that a day of rest and devotions was ordained by God as a sacred gift for the people.

In Jesus' time, Sabbath rules were kept as well. Although he was criticized by the pious for picking grain and healing on the Sabbath, those actions were wisely seen by Jesus as life-giving.

What about us? We might do well to pause this Sunday and consider how we, too, might respect the Sabbath as God's gift to all.

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He is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Happy Easter!