

From the Family Room

12 July, 2015

Church of Christ at Creekwood
Mobile, AL

Time is Filled with Swift Transition

But You, O LORD, abide forever, and Your name to all generations. But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end. Psalms 102:12, 27

I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. Job 42:2

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:23-24

The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You. Isaiah 26:3

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word Ephesians 5:25-26

'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' Matthew 22:37, 39

I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. John 17:15-16

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" Matthew 28:19

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

In 1964, Bob Dylan sang, "The times they are a changing." They are for sure changing today also. And they seem to be changing more rapidly in recent years. The climate of our society seems to be more anti-God and anti-Christian. How are we as Christians to react to these swift transitions in a more hostile society? What do we do?

1. **Hold to God's unchanging hand.** Nothing on earth can stand unchanged. We should build our hopes on things eternal.
2. **Worship God** – Rejoice that God is unchanging. Rejoice that God loves us. Rejoice that God is sovereign and all powerful. Worship Him in spirit and in truth. Pray that God's will be done.
3. **Trust** – Trust in Him who will not leave you, whatsoever years may bring. Rid our lives of anxiety by trusting in God's power. Trust God's word as the truth. Trust the Bible as our problem solving guide as we journey through life.
4. **Consecrate** – Recognize our sins, repent of those sins, and let Christ's blood remove them from our lives. Purify our lives. Purify the church. Re-dedicate our lives and the work of the church to glorifying God by making disciples for Christ.
5. **Love** – Love God with all of our being. Love our neighbor as ourselves. Follow the example of Jesus and love people in the same way Christ loved people when He was on earth. Love the unlovable. Pray for our enemies. Without God's love and grace, all of us are sinners in the same doomed sinking boat. Without love, all we do is meaningless.
6. **Go** – Do not let the changes occurring around us in the world cause us to sulk in isolation from the world. Jesus did not pray for us to be physically removed from the world. He prayed for our protection from the world as we go into it to teach His gospel. He prayed for us to be insulated from harm in the world rather than isolated from the world.
7. **Teach** – Teach with love. Love enough to teach God's truth. We cannot reach the world by diluting God's truth. It is not ours to change. The truth is God's and it is eternal. We can adjust the method of teaching. Teach our children the truth daily in the home. Teach our children the truth in the church. Teach by words and by example. Teach the world with love, even though many will probably reject God's truth.
8. **Serve** - Let our lights shine that God will be glorified. A light cannot be fully appreciated until it shines in darkness. These changing times as darkness seems to grow are our opportunity to shine by our service to others with Godly attitudes.

In our "I do what I want" society, the times they are a changin' – swiftly. Our country seems to be more anti-Christian. We as Christians are feeling more pressure to compromise Biblical values and conform to culture. We are contending with issues our parents could never have guessed. All of the changes may be confusing and bothersome to some. However, to Christians, our Father is still there and unchanging. We can rely on His strength and love. His command to love our neighbors is still in effect. We must still make disciples. We must start in our family. Teach your family well each day. Hold to God's unchanging hand.

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