

#3 Changes Must Come

Paul J. Bucknell

- We tend to resist change.
- But challenges upon the church force us to change.
- Grow or die!

Be victorious or suffer defeat.
These are our choices.

God's Hidden Participation

- The early church was scattered about, running in every direction, much like ants.
- “So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen...” (Acts 11:19).
- “Now there were at Antioch, in the church... While they were ministering...” (Acts 13:1-3).

Identify the Underlying Problems

- A surge of information has hit us!
- Nothing, however, really has changed.
- How many happy marriages do you know of?
- We can pray for a mighty move of the Spirit of God, but why do following generations harden?
- The problem is perpetuated because no way to connect the gospel to the people of God.

The Path Back Home

- Repentance is our pathway back to God.
- “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).
- Awakenings are due to genuine repentance taking place in many hearts

“If my people...humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:13-14).

God’s Solutions

- If we come to Him, then He will come and show us how the church can powerfully confront the darkness in the world with His light.
- if Israel would turn toward the altar, God would hear and heal.
- The Lord sits in heaven and laughs at His enemies (Psalm 2).

Our Lessons

- God uses the attacks upon the church to press us into a corner so that we will break out of our old perspectives and again discover the power of His glorious truths.
- The real problem that the church faces is unbelief.
- Change begins by returning to God, humbling our hearts and confessing our sins.
- God’s people must act or lose ground against our enemies.

Our Applications

- Are you broken by sin in and around you, or do you just accept it as the way things happen to be?
- Like Nehemiah, come to God’s altar not just for your sins of a straying heart and eye, but also for how God’s people