**CHANGE FOR THE BETTER**

**Philippians 3:1-21**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. There are members of the church [body] who want to bring about change.

 A. What they desire is to take the church into denominationalism.

 B. This is ***NOT*** being said with their lips, **BUT** their actions represent this design.

2. Many within do ***NOT*** understand the true concept of New Testament Christianity.

 A. Much has to do with some coming from a denomination to their thoughts of another.

B. In many instances, one has ***NOT*** done a good job teaching the Bible on the church.

 1. Perhaps, in one’s attempt to baptize, one has failed to convert.

4. If the church is to remain pure, [we] must (as change is considered), ensure any change is as per the teachings of God’s Word.

**BODY:**

**1. SOME CHANGE IS NECESSARY (Php 3:1 – 6)**

 A. Paul was willing to leave the religion of his fathers to become a Christian.

 1. That demanded change **(**Php 3:4 – 6).

 B. There are incidents, [we] have made changes.

 1. Give up the world (1 Jn 2:15 – 17).

 2. Become a new creation (2 Cor 5:17).

 3. Yield ourselves instruments of righteousness ***NOT*** of unrighteousness (Rom 6:13).

 4. [We] must seek to become holy (1 Pet 1:15, 16).

**2. WITH CHANGES, PURSUE THE RIGHT GOALS (Php 3:7 – 11)**

 A. To accomplish this, there are several things [we] must achieve:

 1. [We] must count all things lost for Christ.

 2. One can***NOT*** turn to a false religious hope.

 A. They must remember their goal.

 3. “All things” to Paul were nothing when compared to Christ.

 B. To accomplish this, there are several things [we] must avoid:

 1. Obsession with numbers.

 2. Desire to be intellectually sophisticated.

 3. Pressure to be politically correct.

 4. Compatibility with culture.

**3. UNDERSTAND SOME CHANGES WILL ALWAYS BE IN ORDER (Php 3:12 – 15)**

 A. [We] are ***NOT*** perfect without Christ, change to be what God wants us to be.

 B. To do this, [we] must forget those things which are behind and press toward the mark.

**4.** **MANY REASONS *NOT* TO MAKE UNAUTHORIZED CHANGES (Php 3:16-21)**

 A. [We] have a common rule or standard (Php 3:16).

 1. [We] can ***NOT*** make unauthorized changes.

 A. To do so violates this principle.

 B. [We] have apostolic example for what is right (Php 3:17).

 1. Unauthorized changes make [us] an enemy of the cross of Christ (Php 3:18).

 2. Unauthorized changes bring destruction (Php 3:19).

 E. [We] will be rewarded for following Jesus (Php 3:20, 21).