

“A Great Change”
Galatians 3:23-29

Introduction:

1. Have You Ever Needed A Change In Your Life?
 - A Big Change – A Great Change?
 - Sometimes As We Go Through Life:
 - We Need A Change!
 - Sometimes It Is Just:
 - A Change Of Scenery!
 - So We Go Somewhere For A Couple Of Days:
 - To See Something That Is Different And Delightful To Our Sense Of Sight!
 - We Were Hoping To See Some Of Lake Michigan - For A Change Of Scenery
 - But Were Unable To Do So!
 - Sometimes We Need Just:
 - A Change Of Pace!
 - From All Of The Hustle And Bustle:
 - Of Our Work-A-Day World! And So We Go On Vacation, To Try To Get Some Much Needed Rest And Refreshment!
 - But There Are Even Greater Changes:
 - That We Sometimes Need In Our Lives!
 - A Change Of Employment!
 - Or Even A Change Of Location! Move!
 - Van Der Feysts!
2. As We Head Back To Galatians 3:
 - We Discover:
 - Several Other Changes That Were Greatly Needed:
 - In All Of Our Lives!
 - And As We Finish Up This 3rd Chapter Together:
 - We Will See That:
 - The Greatest Changes That We Desperately Need:
 - Have All Been Made Possible By The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Let's Read Together:
 - Galatians 3:23-29 - “But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. / Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. / But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. / For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. / For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. / There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. / And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise!”
 - In These Verses:
 - We Find Four Great Changes:
 - That We All Need In Our Lives!
 - And Yet - Each One Of These Changes Is Made Possible By & Even Provided By:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Most Other Changes:
 - That We Need In Our Lives:
 - Takes A Lot Of Effort On Our Part!
 - Or Time Or Money!
 - Even A Vacation!
 - But These Great Changes:
 - Can Only Be Made:
 - Through Faith!
 - What Are These Changes?

* The First Change That We Need Is:

1. ***A Change From Our Captivity!***
 - Which We See In 3:23:

- “But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed!”
 - Here - Paul Is Giving A Personal Testimony That Applies To Everyone:
 - Whether They Are Aware Of It Or Not!
 - He Writes:
 - “Before Faith Came!”
 - Or - Before A Person / Before Any Person Believes In & Calls Upon The Lord Jesus Christ In Order To Be Saved!
 - Before A Person Is Saved Through Faith:
 - What Is It Like For Them?
 - What Is It Like For Us?
- We Are In Captivity:
 - And We Are Being Held By A Strong Guard!
 - We Learned A Little Bit About That Guard:
 - Last Sunday - From 3:19-22!
 - The Guard That Keeps Us In Captivity Is The Law Of God!
 - And We See From This:
- The Strength Of Our Captivity:
 - Now - This Applies Not Only To The Jewish Nation:
 - Who Was Given God’s Law:
 - Explicitly At Mt. Sinai!
 - But It Also Applies To All Other People:
 - Who Are A Law Unto Themselves!
 - Even As We Read In Romans 2:14-15a - “For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: / Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts!”
 - The Law Of God Existed:
 - Even Before It Was Codified And Given To The Children Of Israel Through Moses!
 - And So - Whether You Are A Jew Or A Gentile:
 - “Before Faith Came – We Were Kept Under Law!”
 - God’s Law! And It Held Us All Captive:
 - To Our Sin Against Our Creator!
 - But We Also See:
- The Setting Of Our Captivity:
 - In 3:23 - It Also Reminds Us That We All Were:
 - “Shut Up Unto The Faith!”
 - The Word Translated Here “Shut Up” Is The Same Word Translated In 3:22 - “Concluded” - Which Simply Means To Surround & Enclose Us!
 - **IE:** Like A Prison Being Built - Block By Block - In Order To Keep Criminals In!
 - The Blocks Of This Prison - Are Made Up Of The Many Individual Laws Of God - Each Block Inscribed With A Precept Or A Statute!
 - And We Are Its Prisoners! Criminals!
 - We Are In A Super-Max Prison, Confronted At Every Turn With Our Crimes Against God!
 - And - Even Here It Indicates That:
 - “We Were Shut Up Unto The Faith Which Should Afterwards Be Revealed!”
 - In Other Words - Our Sins & Crimes Against God Even Prevented Us From:
 - Finding Christ - The Only Way Out - The Object Of Faith!
- Oh - How We Need A Change!
 - A Change From Our Captivity!
 - But That Is Why – “The Faith” – Christ Himself – “Should Afterwards Be Revealed!”
 - God Knew That We Could Never Find Our Way Out - Apart From Him!
 - And So - God Reveals The Door To Our Prison Cell:
 - The Way Out From The Captivity Of Our Sin & Guilt Against Him & His Law!
 - He Did This In History!
 - He Does This Personally!
 - The Door - Christ Himself - Has Been There All Along!
 - We Just Didn’t Know It! Nor Could We See It! For We Were All Blind As Well!

- And He Provided The Great Change:
 - That We All Need!
 - The Change From Our Captivity!
 - True Freedom From Our Sin / Guilt / The Law Itself!
 - This Is What Jesus Does:
 - Isaiah 61:1 - “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound!”

* The Second Change That We Need Is:

2. *A Change Of Our Control!*

- Which We See In 3:24-25:
 - “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. / But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster!”
 - Here - God Gives Us Another Use Of His Law:
 - And Especially The Codified Law:
 - That Was Given To Moses & The Children Of Israel!
 - And That Use Was:
 - To Control Us:
 - Like A Strict & Stern Guardian!
 - He Writes - “Wherefore The Law Was Our Schoolmaster!”
 - Now - Just What Is A Schoolmaster?
 - Here - It Is Not:
 - A Teacher Or A Tutor:
 - As We Might Think Based On The Translation That We Have!
 - The “Schoolmaster” Here:
 - Was More Like A Guardian!
 - In Roman Times - The Time When Paul Wrote This Letter - Wealthy Romans Would Have Slaves - And One Of Their Trusted Slaves Would Serve As A Guardian For Their Children!
 - Would Take Them To & From School! Make Sure They Did Their Schoolwork! Made Sure They Stayed Out Of Trouble!
 - These Guardians Were Given Authority:
 - To Discipline The Children Of Their Master!
 - And Were Often Very Strict & Stern!
 - Children Often Couldn’t Wait:
 - To Get Away From Their “Paidagog” - As They Were Called!
 - Paul Tells Us That God’s Law Was Also Used:
 - As His “Paidagog” - And Our Guardian!
 - A Stern & Strict Disciplinarian!
 - But - Why Would God Do This?
 - See:
 - The Purpose Of Our Guardian:
 - “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith!”
 - Just Like The “Paidagog” Would Take His Master’s Children To School & To Their Teacher:
 - This Is What The Law Of God Was / Is Meant To Do For Us!
 - To Lead Us - As Children - Unto Christ - And The Truth About Him!
 - The Law Was Not To Be An End In Itself!
 - It Was To Show All Of Us:
 - That We Can Only Be Justified By Faith:
 - And Not By The Works Of The Law!
 - But We Also See:
 - The Period Of Our Guardian:
 - The Ancient Roman Guardians:
 - Were Only In The Lives Of Their Master’s Children:
 - For A Certain Period Of Time!
 - And Isn’t This What We See In:
 - 3:25 - “But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster!”

- When Personal Faith Arrives In Your Heart:
 - Faith In Christ - As Your Savior From Your Sin:
 - And The Sentence Of The Law:
 - The Law Is No Longer The Strict & Stern Guardian That It Once Was!
- And God Provides Us With The Great Change:
 - Of Control - That We Need In Our Lives!
 - Because - The Children:
 - In An Ancient Roman Household:
 - Were Considered No More Than Servants Themselves - Even Under The Guardianship Of A Slave!
 - But When They Came Of Age:
 - They Received All Of The Rights & Privileges:
 - As The Children They Were!
 - We Are No Longer Under:
 - The Guardianship & Control Of:
 - A Stern & Strict Law!
 - Rather - Through Faith In Christ - We Are Now:
 - Under The Loving Guidance Of:
 - Our Heavenly Father!

* Because We Also Needed:

3. ***A Change In Our Condition!***

- Which We Find In:
 - 3:26 - “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus!”
 - Isn’t This A Great Change!
 - No Longer A Mere Subject:
 - Or Even A Slave – But Now - Sons & Daughters Of God Himself!
 - And How Does This All Happen?
 - “By Faith In Christ Jesus!”
 - When Paul States This - He Wants Us To Know That This Is:
 - A Universal Change!
 - It Doesn’t Matter:
 - If You Are A Jew:
 - Who Lived Your Whole Life:
 - Under The Law Given To Moses!
 - Or Even If You Are A Gentile:
 - Anyone & Everyone:
 - Can Become A Child Of God:
 - By Faith In Christ Jesus!
 - But How Can This Happen?
 - How Does This Happen?
 - How Can We Come From:
 - Being Prisoners To The Law Of God:
 - To Being The People Of God?
 - Because It Is:
 - A Unifying Change!
 - 3:27 - Shows That Whoever Believes In Jesus Christ
 - Becomes One With Jesus Christ!
 - “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ!”
 - This Verse Describes:
 - Union With Christ!
 - This Is Not Talking About:
 - Water Baptism - But About A Spiritual Immersion Into & Identification With Christ!
 - This Is Something That The Holy Spirit Does With All Who Believe!
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13 - “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit!”
 - You Become A Child Of God - Because Jesus Himself Is The Eternal Son Of God!
 - And You Become Part Of His Spiritual Body!

- What A Change!
 - But This Also Brings A:
- Unity With Other Christians!
 - 3:28 - “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus!”
 - This Means - That In The Body Of Christ - Noone Has Any More Or Less Advantage As A Child Of God Than Any Other!
 - It Describes:
 - National & Ethnic & Cultural:
 - Distinctions!
 - Social & Even Gender Distinctions!
 - **IE:** It Is Like Dumping All Sorts Of Different Colors Into The Vast Ocean - What Color Will The Ocean Be? The Same Color It Is!
 - All Who Come To God By Faith In Jesus Christ Are Equally The Children Of God! No Favoritism! No Advantages / Disadvantages!
 - And Shouldn't This Truth Affect Our Treatment Of Believers & Non-Believers As Well! Absolutely No Ground For Prejudice In The Gospel!
- Ever Person Needs This Kind Of Change:
 - In Their Lives - Change In Condition!
 - From Being A Criminal:
 - Under The Just Sentence Of God!
 - To Being A Child Of God:
 - Which Comes By Faith In & Union With:
 - His Eternal Son - Jesus Christ!

* Which Leads To:

4. A Change In Our Custody!

- Which We See In 3:29:
 - “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise!”
 - When You Believe In Christ:
 - You Become Christ’s!
- There Is A New Belonging!
 - You Belong To Him!
 - In A Special & Spiritual Way:
 - You Are United With Him!
 - As We Saw In 3:27:
 - You Were Baptized Into Him:
 - And You “Have Put On Christ!”
 - Like The Prodigal Son:
 - Who - After Living In Sin:
 - In Another Country - Apart From His Loving Father:
 - Was Given His Father’s Best Robe:
 - In Exchange For His Tattered, Stained, Smelly Rags!
 - And With This Belonging:
- There Is A New Blessing!
 - “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise!”
 - You Receive The Same Inheritance:
 - Promised To Abraham!
 - What Is This Inheritance?
 - Like What John MacArthur Once Said:
 - About This Inheritance!
 - It Is All That God Is:
 - And All That God Has!
 - And It All Now Belongs To His Children!
 - Now - Although We Often Focus On The Inheritance:
 - The Main Focus Here Is On:
 - The Promise!
 - And The Promise Of God’s Blessing:

- Is As Sure & Lasting As He Is!

- What A Change!

- We Are Now In The Custody:

- Of A Loving & Gracious Heavenly Father:

- And In The Care Of:

- His Eternal & Beloved Son!

Conclusion:

1. Have These Changes :
 - Taken Place In Your Life?
 - They Are Great Changes:
 - That Everyone Needs!
 - A Change:
 - From Captivity!
 - A Change:
 - Of Control!
 - A Change:
 - In Condition!
 - And A Change:
 - In Custody!
2. All Of These Great Changes:
 - Have Not Only Been:
 - Made Possible Through The Gospel!
 - They Are Absolutely:
 - And Permanently Provided:
 - By Jesus Christ - To Whoever Comes To Him:
 - By Faith!
3. Make Sure You Can Leave Here:
 - Saying & Singing From Your Heart:
 - "What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought Since Jesus came into my heart! / I have light in my soul for which long I had sought, / Since Jesus came into my heart!
 - Since Jesus came into my heart! Since Jesus came into my heart!
 - Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll, Since Jesus came into my heart!

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