

Change We Can Believe In

★ **Scriptural Text: Matthew 5:21-45**

★ In the year 2008, Senator (now President) Barack Obama introduced the title above as his campaign slogan. As articulate & as intelligent as Barack Obama is, he is not the answer to societal, moral, political, & spiritual change; Jesus is, for Jesus Christ is the original & only agent of change. Jesus Christ is the only one who can provide change we can believe in. The Bible talks a great deal about change. Change can be a good thing. Hear Job in **Job 14:14**, "If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." However, change can also be a bad thing. Here Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 2:11**, "Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit." The change Jesus wants us to believe in is conformity to His word, will, & way. Many in religion are just like the religious people during Jesus' day. Listen to your Bible! In **Matthew 15:8-9**, Jesus said, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Jesus exposed it then, & He is still exposing it today, for almost 2,000 years later, individuals are still teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He would say, "It had been said..." thus identifying what they heard & believed, then He would immediately follow it up with, "But I say unto you..." thus correcting with God's word, which was always there & had never changed, but was being ignored & disregarded by the masses. There are a lot of things being said today in religion, but is it in the Bible?

★ **It Has Been Said "Pray The Sinner's Prayer, Ask Jesus To Come Into Your Heart, & He Will Save Your Soul," But I Say Unto You That God Does Not Hear A Sinner's Prayer! (John 9:31)**

★ First of all, where in the Bible is the sinner's prayer? The sinner's prayer is not even in the Bible. It was made up by man for man. Secondly, where in the Bible did Jesus ever command a prayer be prayed in order to obtain salvation by Him? Thirdly, what can a sinner pray for in the first place? The sinner doesn't need to pray for God to love him because God already loves him (**John 3:16**). The sinner doesn't need to pray for faith (**Romans 10:17**). The sinner doesn't even have to pray for salvation (**Mark 16:16**). This is change you can believe in!

★ **It Has Been Said "Water Baptism Is Not Essential To Salvation. It Is Just An Outward Sign Of An Inward Grace," But I Say Unto You That Water Baptism Is Essential To Salvation! (Mark 16:16)**

★ For one to suggest we are saved without baptism is for one to affirm we are saved without being born again (**John 3:5**). To suggest we are saved without baptism is to affirm we are saved without the remission, removal, & forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38**). To suggest we are saved without baptism is to affirm we are saved without being in Christ (**Galatians 3:27**). To suggest we are saved without baptism is to affirm we are saved without being saved, (**1 Peter 3:21**). This is change you can believe in!

★ **It Has Been Said "One Church Is As Good As Another Church. It Does Not Matter What Church You Go To, Just As Long As You Go To Church," But I Say Unto That The Church Does Matter For God Adds The Saved To The Church! (Acts 2:47)**

★ In **Ephesians 4:4-6**, the Bible reads, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Question: Is one Spirit as good as another Spirit? Is one hope as good as another hope? Is one Lord as good as another Lord? Is one God as good as another God? The answer to all of these questions is NO! Why? It is because there is only one Spirit, the Holy Spirit; one hope, the hope of eternal life in heaven; one Lord, Jesus Christ; & one God (**Deuteronomy 6:4 – Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord**). If one church is as good as another, then one God is as good as another. However, since any God will not do, then any church will not do, for we can only scripturally have as many churches as there are Holy Spirits, hopes, Lords, & Gods. Any church will not do because there is only one church & the number one boils down to the fact that we don't have a choice. This is change you can believe in! Let us take to Jesus' words in **Matthew 7:24-27**. Are we going to remain foolish or are we going to be wise & accept the only change we can believe in?