

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalm 91:1-9**.
- B. From *The Bumps are What you Climb On* by W. Wiersbe (Ch. 19,10).
- C. Doctors tell us that people are becoming emotionally and physically ill because of the stress of life and the rapidity of change. There are several ways to handle this problem.
- D. There are great blessings to be enjoyed due to taming the weaver's shuttle!

I. OUR FAST-PACED WAY OF LIFE.

- A. We live in a very fast-paced society (world). How does one cope with all the never-ending changes?
 - 1. Retreat into the past and let the world go its merry way.
 - 2. Fight change and try to slow down the shuttle.
 - 3. Allow the shuttle to do its work and accept the result.
- B. I believe that Xians should do the 3rd option.
- C. Of course, not all change is good. Change is not necessarily good, just for the sake of change.
- D. What I am talking about is making the necessary changes according to the God's will.

II. WE SEE CHANGE ALL AROUND US.

- A. The only thing constant in life is change. We see changes in:
 - 1. Clothing and hair styles.
 - 2. Music and entertainment.
 - 3. Government and world politics.
 - 4. Our own lives due to the aging process.
 - 5. Our economic status.
 - 6. Due to illness or tragedy.
 - 7. Technology (medicine, computers, everyday life).
 - 8. Religion and worship styles.
- B. So, how do we sort out all of these changes and know what to do to live for X?

III. MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES.

- A. While we have very little control over those things in the outside world, we can change our world.
- B. We don't have to change everything. Paul said, "**not all things are profitable**" (1Cor. 6:12).
- C. Making the necessary changes is to define our 3 relationships and go from there.
 - 1. Our relationship with God.
 - 2. Our relationship with others.
 - 3. Our relationship with self.

IV. ADJUSTING TO THE WEAVER'S SHUTTLE.

- A. First, since life is moving rapidly, **our circumstances will change** (Jas. 4:14).
Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.
- B. Second, since our lives are like the weaver's shuttle, **there is a pattern and purpose involved**.
 - 1. You and I are still on the loom. God isn't finished with us yet (Phil. 1:6).
For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - 2. Don't get angry at God because you don't agree with His choice of colors or patterns. You and I cannot see the total picture; only God can see that (Rom. 9:20-24).

On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it? **21** Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? **22** What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? **23** And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, **24** *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

3. And don't get disgusted with life because the pattern isn't what you want. The weaver knows best (Mt. 6:8).

So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

4. Some people try to improve the pattern, and they end up making it ugly instead of beautiful (Isa. 55:8-9).

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.

9 “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

- C. Third, we are to be people who **“roll with the punches”** (2Cor. 4:7-10).

for we walk by faith, not by sight-- **8** we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. **9** Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- D. Fourth, Xians are to be **a changed people ready to change again** as necessary. Note the following passages and see where you might need to change.

1. **Be converted**, a complete make-over (see Mt. 18:3; Jn. 12:39-40; Rom. 12:2; 2Cor. 3:18).
2. **Be mature** or complete (see 1Cor. 14:20; Eph. 4:11-13; Heb. 5:12-14).
3. **To grow**, that is do new things (see Eph. 4:14-16; 1Pet. 2:1-3; 2Pet. 3:17-18).
4. **To learn**, gain equipment (see Mt. 11:29; 1Cor. 4:6; Eph. 5:7-10; Ti. 3:14).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Handling the bumps and bruises of life sometimes means having to change our way of thinking and way of life.
- B. Growth can be a painful process, but it has its rewards too. There is greater danger in not growing!
- C. Who is ready to make the necessary changes to follow Jesus?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.