

The Bulwark

APRIL 14, 2024

METAMORPHOSIS: TO CHANGE

“Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord.” (Lamentations 3:4). The appeal just noted points out that one should never be satisfied at simple examination; but probe the depth of the inner man. The word probe involves investigation not just cursory examination. Sadly, most are content with a cursory examination; wanting to avoid what may be lurking just under the surface. For if what was lying under the surface came to light, one may very be forced with the need to change.



The need for change is a constant throughout the pages of the Scriptures. Romans 12:1-2 is an example of such a plea. *“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”* The key word is “transformed”, which in the Greek is metamorphosis. Digging a little deeper, one can find the definition of metamorphosis as being “a marked alteration in appearance, condition, character or function.” There are fifteen ways in which the word metamorphosis can be used, but all of them have at their core the central notion of “to become different”.

Mankind balks at change. William James wrote, “Man alone of all creatures of the earth, can change his own pattern. Man alone is the architect of his destiny. The greatest discovery in our generation is that human beings, by changing their inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives.” All mankind has to do in order to discover how vital the change process is to mankind.

Positive change is difficult. It demands a moving out of one’s comfort zone, but holds the promise of a bountiful reward. Without change, growth is impossible. A powerful lesson was discovered by Dr. Keith DeGreen, when observing conifer caterpillars. The inch long caterpillars would move around the food placed in their environment in a circle, with the food in the center. One following another they would move around the food, never changing. This was to their peril as one by one they died of starvation. Unwilling to break the cycle and move to the food, which was right there. How many of us have a like mind set? Some have even adopted a really ridiculous saying, “I’d rather die than change!”

Change should not be viewed as a threat. Moreover, it is opportunity

to grow into the person that God would desire us to be. The process of self examination and spiritual probing should serve as an apt motivator that will bring about the change process.

It is the individual who is seeking maturity that will upon introspection awoken to the need to change. Paul in the third chapter of Philippians writes about the changes he under went. *“Brethren I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* (13-14) There is indeed a tremendous prize that awaits; and it is one worthy of our being changed ^(wbc)

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