

CHANGING GOD'S ORDER CAUSES PROBLEMS

(ROMANS 1:21-25) (MALACHI 3:6-7)

CHANGE: To put or take a thing in place of something else; to substitute for or replace or transfer to another.

ORDER: The sequence or arrangement of things or events, series, or succession; a fixed or definite plan or system; a law of arrangement; something that is set apart or aside from others.

In Romans Chapter 1, we find out that Paul wrote this letter to the saints at Rome because he had a great love and concern for them. In verse 11, Paul stated that he longed to see them, and wanted to impart some spiritual gifts and to establish them. Paul's concern was that they be set and fixed in right standing with God, and that they might be strengthened.

Paul's ministry had a great impact on the establishment and development of the church in Rome. Many of the believers there were Paul's converts or associates in other parts of the empire. Paul felt like because of his interest and devotion to the church at Rome that the church was like his very own.

In the book of Malachi chapter 3, when God said, "*I change not....*" refers to basic character and keeping covenant, not to acts of judgment or mercy when needed.

There are times when God has repented or changed his mind when it became necessary.

- A. He repented when he made man.
- B. He changed his mind when he allowed Hezekiah to live longer.

God is absolute in holiness and justice, and is morally and divinely obligated for the good of all, to judge all.

God does not and cannot change his original and eternal plan and purpose, but he does change some ways and means of fulfilling the plan.

When God's order, which is his word, is changed and forsaken, errors begin to multiply. For the best results, it's best to follow his directions.

(Psalms 37:23) The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. This means, his way is prepared, established, structured, and directed by God's order, which is the word of God.

Paul sends this letter to Rome by a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea which is a city near Corinth. She was on her way to Rome. Her name was Phoebe and her duties in the church were to attend to the female converts, to help them get ready for baptism. She also made visits to those that were sick in prison.

The purpose for Paul sending this letter to Rome was that he was eager to preach the gospel of salvation to them. He wanted them to know what it was and also to experience the power of the gospel. There was tension between the Jewish and Gentile Christian community at Rome.

There were Judaizers among them that were trying to lead Paul's converts away from the truth. They were seeking to take away their liberty in the gospel. This letter was a declaration of God's plan of salvation for all human beings by grace through faith.

A change in acts of obedience indicates a change in masters.

In Romans chapter 7, the bible speaks about old relationship to sin as compared to a new relationship to God. (Vs. 1-6).

Paul pointed out in his letter that there was some apostasy going on. (vs. 21-32).

There were some who knew God by experience, but they did not glorify him as God. Rather, they changed the truth of God into a lie, and they worshipped idols.

Whenever you change God's order and replace it or substitute it for something else it causes problems. You cannot disregard or deny his word because it pushes God to anger. He said I am a jealous God and thou shalt have no other gods before me.

What happened when they changed God's order?

They became vain in their imaginations. Their hearts were darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. They changed the glory of the incorruptible God and made him corrupt through an image or idols. (Romans chapter 1)

What problems did that cause?

God gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts. (They dishonored their own bodies). He gave them up to vile affections. (Women with women and men with men). God gave them over to a reprobate mind. All of this happened because they did not retain God in their knowledge.

When we read the word of God, we see the consequences of those who changed God's order.

Jonah, for example was given specific orders or directions from God to go to Nineveh. He changed those orders and as a result placed innocent people in danger. Not only that, but if he had not repented and done things the way that God required, many people would not have heard and received God's warnings.

Moses was given an order by God to speak to the rock; instead, he disobeyed God's order and smote the rock. Because of that act of disobedience he was not able to enter the promise land.

Saul was given orders by God to destroy Amalek and to kill everything. (I Samuel 15). Instead, he changed the order and saved some. As a consequence of his actions, God rejected him from being King.

Adam and Eve changed God's order by eating from the tree that was forbidden by God. As a result they lost their standing with God and caused the Adamic sin to come upon the entire human race.

God has a divine order. When we follow his direction, we have a promise of success. When we change his orders and do things our way, we always stand the chance of losing our victory, but in many cases unfortunate circumstances follow. God says what he means and means what he says. It is to our advantage to follow his order and to our disadvantage to try to change God's order.

He said to Joshua in Joshua 1:8, if you obey my word, you will make your way prosperous and find good success. The same thing applies to us today.

God desires success for his children but we must do it his way. His ways are higher and his ways are better, therefore for the best results, follow his directions.