

Change

One of the greatest ironies of life, is that we resist change although change can often cause us to grow. As the people of God, we fail not in the mistakes that we do but rather by not discerning and acting upon the opportunities that would enable us to learn and grow as the children of God. At times, such disregard for change and growth paralyze us, often producing dire consequences.

In 1968 Switzerland had 65% of the world watch market. It was a Swiss research team that developed the quartz movement watch. However, the Swiss watchmakers didn't take seriously the new development because it was so unlike the traditional watches that the Swiss excelled at making. The Swiss refused to change, to learn, to grow and as a result they got stuck in history and history left them behind.

The Church also runs the risk of missing the opportunities to change, of being stuck in history. To be sure, the scriptures, the Word of God, remains constant but we need to apply them in ways that the world can appropriate, understand and be convicted by. As Helmut Thieliche said: "The Gospel must be preached afresh and told in new ways to every generation, since every generation has its own unique questions. The Gospel must be constantly be forwarded to a new address, because the recipient is repeatedly changing his [her] place of residence." To be Christian means to be bold, to risk and to be confident that our work in the Lord will not be in vain. Our journey must be no less than Christ's in terms of sacrificial giving, of stepping out into the unknown, and of being faithful to the end amidst a changing world.