

# A Changing Light in a Darkened World?

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*<sup>5</sup> Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," <sup>6</sup> so that we confidently say,*

*"The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.*

*What will man do to me?"*

*<sup>7</sup> Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup> Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.*

*- Hebrews 13:5-9 (New American Standard)*





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- CEO MacAllister Booth (1985)



- Top of the video rental industry
- Thousands of locations
- Millions of customers
- \$200 million/year just in late fees!!
- Bankrupt in 2010



**NETFLIX**

- In 2000, Reed Hastings tried to partner with Blockbuster
- Laughed out of the room
- Today worth \$165 Billion!



## Change “Drivers”

- New Technology/Science
- New Regulations or Government/Political Actions
- Demographic/Social Behavior
- Behavior of Competition

*Companies that don't change with the environment become irrelevant within that environment!*



## Change “Drivers”

- New Regulations or Government/Political Actions
  - Is this an issue for the church and Christianity in general?
  - Laws/regulations making God not only irrelevant, but illegal
- Demographic/Social Behavior
  - How many behaviors that were once considered immoral and taboo are now celebrated?
  - People seem to want religion that is about compassion and justice



## A Warning: “Do not be conformed to this world!”

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*<sup>10</sup> “Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, <sup>11</sup> and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, <sup>12</sup> then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.<sup>13</sup> You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. <sup>14</sup> You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, <sup>15</sup> for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God”*

- Deuteronomy 6:10-15



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*<sup>11</sup> Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, <sup>12</sup> and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger.*

*- Judges 2:11-12*

*<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; <sup>5</sup> and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.”*

*- 1 Samuel 8:4-5*



## A Warning: “Do not be conformed to this world!”

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*<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*- Romans 12:2*

- Do we seek to change the culture, or do we allow the culture to change us?
- Do we call out the world to obedience, or do we call people to a “cheap grace” tied to moral relativism?
- Do we preach that God is the answer, or do we try to figure out ways that everyone can be right?
- Are we a hospital that invites the sick and offers healing, or are we a hotel that panders to those already inside?



## Christ has not changed!

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- Jesus Christ has ALL authority in Heaven and on Earth – Matthew 28:18-20
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever – Hebrews 13:5-9
- Jesus Christ does not feel differently about sin just because we do!
- I Corinthians 6:9-11 – What was the culture like when Paul wrote this?
- What has not changed?
  - How God feels about sin – vs. 9
  - God’s love and care for those who obey Him – vs. 5-6



## **The needs of those around us has not changed!**

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- Do people no longer need the blood of Christ?
- People are looking for the same things they have always looked for
  - Christ-like people that practice what they preach
  - Christ-like people that are not spineless or powerless
  - Christ-like people who have not lost their backbones

*Are we relevant to our society? – More than ever!!*