

WHAT TIME CAN CHANGE AND NOT CHANGE

In the wee hours on Sunday, November 2, 2025, it was time for us to turn our clocks back an hour. Prior to this moment in time, many of us were watching Game 7 of the World Series between the Toronto Blue Jays and Los Angeles Dodgers. With the game going into extra innings, I remember the Blue Jays broadcast showing the clock at the Rogers Centre striking midnight. Blue Jay's broadcaster Dan Shulman commented at that moment how Game 7 had entered into November 2nd.

I did not stay up for the conclusion of the game. Once the Dodgers hit the go-ahead home run in the top of the 11th inning, I decided to turn the game off and head to bed. If there was a miracle comeback on the Jays part, I would have to watch it the next morning on the sport's highlight shows.

When I woke up after the time change on Sunday morning, I noticed that it was brighter outside earlier in the morning than I had been experiencing over the past several weeks. I also learned early Sunday morning that the Jays had lost. Up until that point I had been wearing my Toronto Blue Jays watch every day. On Sunday morning I decided to make a change and put on my Toronto Maple Leafs watch instead.

These were not the only changes I noticed on Sunday morning. As people began to arrive at church, I saw a big change with respect to their emotions from the Sunday before. Before, people were positive and excited about the Blue Jays' chances of winning the World Series. This past Sunday, however, it was evident in the conversations I had with people at the door that many were saddened by the disappointing end to the series and ready for a change due to the stress they felt watching the games. In a short time, Blue Jays fans went from being excited to being disappointed; from being full of hope to full of sadness; and from being full of praise for the players to criticizing some for not coming through in the clutch.

This past weekend we not only experienced how time brings about change, but also how experiencing a loss does so as well. Some people do not handle loss and change very well. My father always hated the time change. He complained it threw him off his sleep pattern. Listening to some of the comments on a sports radio station I listen to, many people did not handle the Blue Jays loss very well either. One person commented this weekend that the World Series reminded him why he both loved sports and hated it. It is not just a loss when it comes to sports that can bring about significant changes in our lives. The loss of one's health, or the death of a loved one, or a broken relationship can also bring about impactful changes in our lives.

As much as we may struggle with change when it comes to time or loss, I was reminded over these past few days how we can rely on God, never changing in these moments. One of the passages that comforts and strengthens me whenever I experience loss and change in my life is Paul's words from **Romans 8:28**:

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.

This passage has been a constant source of hope and inspiration for me in times of change and loss: that God works in everything for our good. The passage does not promise that everything that will happen to us will be good, but rather that God is able to turn every circumstance around for our long term good. I was reminded once again of God doing this during these past few days since the Blue Jays loss in the wee hours of Sunday morning.

On Sunday, my wife took one of our laptop computers up to the hospital so one of our parishioners could experience worship that day. Despite the parishioner's loss of health at this moment, she was able to sing during the hymns and hear my message that day. This parishioner is in a semi-private room and the person in the bed beside her was happy to have the service played. This moment had a profound effect on the man's daughter who was in the room at the same time.

On Monday morning I went up to see this parishioner, the daughter came to me and said, "Yesterday, hearing the service, and seeing the effort made was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen." I asked her how her father was doing and she replied by saying, "I am sad to say not very well." She did comment that hearing the prayers being offered, seeing the family members and friends coming to visit, and experiencing the worship service has been building a foundation beneath her that she did not have before.

This has been a very difficult journey and time for this woman. My conversation with her was another reminder to me that what never changes is that God is at work helping the changes and losses we experience to be transformed into something good.

I may have changed my watch after the Blue Jays loss and had to adjust the time on my Maple Leafs watch to reflect the time change, but what did not alter for me was the reassurance I find in Romans 8:28.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean