

God Never Changes

Text : **Psalms 102: 18-28 ; Malachi 3: 5-6**

INTRODUCTION :

A. How do you deal with change? Basic human nature resists change.

1. By nature living things seek an ongoing pattern of sameness in their life.
 - a. We train our children to be on a schedule. (*Eat, sleep, bodily functions, etc.*)
 - b. We never outgrow our desire for the security of a repetitive pattern in our lives.
* *Even adults like to eat on schedule and to eat familiar foods.* (*Hard to adjust at marriage*)
 - c. The older we get the more we resist change. (*So, advertisers target the young.*)
2. Disruptions to one's routine actually create stress. (*Same with animals, even fish*)
 - a. When one's sleep time is altered it takes days to adjust.
 - b. As we get older any kind of disruption is harder to deal with. (e.g., *power outage*)
 - *c. *Disruption is so stressful that psychologists claim that each move from one city to another takes a year off of one's life expectancy.*
3. Moving to another country is so stressful that it has been studied and given a special name, "Culture Shock."
 - a. Culture shock may occur even years after one is in the foreign country.
 - b. No matter how long you are there, things never seem quite right.
 - c. Moving back home after years abroad is worse because "home" has changed.

B. Technology has created change at a rate that is alarming for some people.

1. My great grandfather traveled in a covered wagon and remembered the first car.
2. The space program ushered in a technological revolution.
 - a. Typewriters were replaced with computers.
 - b. Adding machines were replaced by calculators that do many functions.
 - c. Records were replaced by cassettes, then 8-tracks and now CDs.
 - d. Telephones were replaced by wireless cell phones.
 - e. Cell phones are being replaced by wireless multimedia devices.

C. Technology took mothers out of the home and left children to grow up like weeds.

1. Automation took the work out of household tasks. (*Equal to many servants*)
2. Processed foods and microwaves replaced much of the cooking.
- *3. The result has been the destruction of the family structure. (*no mother to teach*)

D. Changes in entertainment have destroyed family life.

1. Young people grow up being entertains rather than trained.
* *So, When they are out on their own they seek money and entertainment. (things)*
2. When the family is in the house, TV and video games dominate their time so there's little time for interaction. (*Now separate devices in their own rooms*)
3. Satan has an open invitation into the home through all entertainment media.
 - a. Sex and violence in moves and games.
 - b. Evil being presented as normal ... as good ... as wholesome.

E. Rapid change in the culture has caused rapid change in the church.

1. It started with the attitude that the assembly was about entertainment. (*music*)
 2. The assemblies of the church have changed :
 - a. Different music
 - b. Different preaching
 - c. Even the way we dress has changed.
- * *It's right and proper that we adapt to the culture, but not to change doctrine.*
3. Multi-media is used in teaching.
 - a. In classroom and in pulpit
 - b. NOT good for teaching methods to be outdated ... in some cases "retro."

* *Nothing is immune to change. What is today will be different tomorrow.*

Though we live in an ever-changing world which has even affected the way we express our worship, we have the security of knowing that the God we worship never changes. Let's consider four ways He is immutable.

I. The person of God never changes.**A. Unlike God, men are creatures of time. (*Can't comprehend a timeless God*)**

1. People are born, we grow old and we die. (*All people have a beginning.*)
2. At death our spirit exists separate from the body which returns to dust.
3. Our body is raised in an altered state, our spirit returns to it and time ends.

B. Time exists only because we dwell in this physical universe.

1. God existed before the earth was created.
2. When God created this physical universe, time began.
3. Thus, when this world ends, time will end.

C. God exists outside this physical universe so God exists outside of time.

1. Our text reveals the eternal nature of God. (*He has no beginning and no end.*)

Psa. 102: 25-27 Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. ²⁷ But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.

2. This truth is the foundation of the Christian's faith. *God never changes.*

Heb. 13: 8- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

D. God identified Himself to Moses as the eternally existent one.

1. When Moses asked God what His name was : (origin of "*Yahweh*" = "*havah*"- to be)

Exod. 3: 13-14 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

2. Thus, in the prayer psalm of Moses he described God as :

Psa. 90: 2- Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

3. **THEREFORE,** we have the security of dealing with a God that we know will never cease to exist or change in any way.

II. The character of God never changes.

A. By definition God is infinite in all His attributes.

1. God is not a little bit of anything; whatever He is, He is **100%**.
 - a. Love ... **I John 4:8**
 - b. Holy ... **Lev. 10: 3 , Num. 20: 12**
2. Being infinite in all His attributes leaves no room for God to increase, i.e, *to improve.*
3. Certainly God will not diminish. (*Men weaken with age, not God.*)

B. Only God does not change.

1. The heavens changes. (*Children make wishes on falling stars.*)
2. The mountains change. (*Volcanoes, earthquakes, man's effect, etc.*)
3. People change. (*Life changes everyone.*)
 - a. Self-improvement books are perennial best sellers. (*People want to improve.*)

- b. Couples break up because one changes.

Extreme Examples : *American brings foreign wife to U.S. - she changes.*

C. What God was He still is ... and ... what He is He always was.

- 1. **Mal. 3: 6** - For I, the LORD, do not change; ...

- 2. *The God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament.*

- a. The supposed transition of God from vengeful to loving is NOT accurate.

- b. Remember :

Heb. 13: 8- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- 3. God never changes.

James 1: 17- Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

III. The standards of God have never changed.

A. God's has never changed His definition of right and wrong.

- 1. If something was ever a sin once, it will always be a sin.
- 2. If something was ever right, it is always right. (*God does not change the rules.*)

B. The Law of Moses did not define sin for all mankind.

(*It was the civil code for the nation over which God ruled, not universal or eternal.*)

- 1. Involuntary bodily functions were never sinful, but there were laws about them.
- 2. Catching a communicable disease was never sinful, but there were laws about it.

C. Though it was not given in relation to eternal life, the Law revealed much of God values. (Cf - **John 5: 39)**

- 1. Wrong has always been wrong : murder, infidelity, dishonesty, disrespect, etc.
- 2. God's definition of virtue and piety remains the same eternally : LOVE
- 3. God's desire for man to be faithful and loyal to Him is eternal.

D. THEREFORE, it remains vitally important that we study the Old Testament.

- 1. There is a reason that the Old Testament is three (3) times as big as the New.

Rom. 15: 4- For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- 2. It is only through studying the Old Testament that one learns about God.

3. It is in the Old Testament that we learn :
 - a. Where we come from and where we are going.
 - b. Why we are on the earth and what is expected of us while we are here.
 - c. The importance of submitting to the sovereignty of our creator.
4. It is the Old Testament which teaches us about God.
 - a. His power.
 - b. His claim of sovereignty over mankind and the earth.
 - c. His attitude toward those who obey and toward those who rebel.

IV. God's will for mankind has never changed.

A. God has always desired to have a loving relationship with His creation.

1. Compliance to the Law of Moses was urged on the basis of love for God.
Deut. 6: 5- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
2. Jesus taught that this was the very most important thing to God.
 - a. In **Matt. 22: 37** Jesus quotes **Deut 6: 5** and then adds **Lev. 19: 18**.
 - b. God demands obedience, but it must come from a heart of love.
3. Man's love for God will never go unrequited.
 - a. **I John 4: 19- We love, because He first loved us.**
 - b. **John 3: 16- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ...**

B. God has willed for man is that he would humble himself before God.

1. Though God has the power to crush all who rebel; He chooses to grant free will.
2. King David, the man after God's own heart said it best :
Psa. 51: 16-17 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.
3. The Prophet Micah echoed the words of the Prophet David :
Micah 6: 8- He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?
4. The Lord's Apostles were inspired to teach the very same thing :
I Pet. 5: 5-6 ... for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ ...

C. God has always desired for men to repent of their transgressions against Him.

1. The prophets called God's people to repentance.
 - a. **Ezek. 18: 4**- Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.
 - b. **Ezek. 18: 32**- "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live."
2. Jesus Himself taught us that there is joy in Heaven over one sinner's repentance. **Luke 15: 10**- In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
3. The Lord's Apostle clearly stated that God wants you to repent. **II Pet. 3: 9**- The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

D. God has always wanted for all mankind to be saved.

1. God did not want His people of old to face judgment. **Ezek. 33: 11**- "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'
2. God planned redemption from before time began. **I Pet. 1: 20-21** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
3. God gave His Only Begotten Son to save you from the consequences of your sins. **John 3: 16**
4. God clearly wants for you to be saved. **I Tim. 2: 3-4** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

CONCLUSION :**A. This God who loves you and wants to save you will never change.**

1. He desires your love and devotion above all else.
2. But, He is the sovereign ruler of the universe who must be obeyed.

B. He invites you to humbly come to Him so He can save you.

Isa 1: 18- Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

Lesson Texts :

Malachi 3: 5-6

5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me,” says the LORD of hosts. **6** “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”

6 “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”

Psa. 102: 23-28

23 He has weakened my strength in the way; He has shortened my days. **24** I say, O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days, Your years are throughout all generations. **25** Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. **26** Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. **27** But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end. **28** The children of Your servants will continue, And their descendants will be established before You.”