

Our Unchanging God – Oct. 6, 2021

Seasons change (Leaves). People change... moods - character - appearance ...

In a world of change, it's good to know one thing that won't ever change – God.

Malachi 3:6 – “I am the LORD, and I do not change.” He's unlike anything.

No event will happen that will alter who God is. He's not surprised; doesn't learn new facts. He won't become untrusting... fearful... become reclusive. Distant.

- **Nothing can change how He responds to us.** He is love ... wants to bless us.

James 1:17 – “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

All things change. Climate... seas rise & fall. Rock, ice ... God remains the same.

Psalms 102:25-27 – “In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 26 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them & they will be discarded. 27 But you remain the same, & your years will never end.”

God doesn't “grow” in knowledge, learn new things. He is wise & all knowing.

Omniscient. **Acts 15:18** - “Known to God from eternity are all His works.”

God doesn't know creation b/c they are; but they are because he knows them.

- Nothing that we do - or can be - is outside God's knowledge.
- **Our significance comes from that fact that we exist.** You are special b/c u r.
- The closer we come to God, the more stability we'll have in ourselves

Best movie characters - ones the mature, evolve, grow. (Rainman. F.G. Scrooge)

Children grow up... spouses mature & change... workers get better/skill...

BUT- **God doesn't evolve... get better... isn't fickle – temperamental - moody...**

Heb. 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, & tomorrow.”

Hard to understand that. **Life has many changes:** kids graduate & leave home..., people get new jobs & move away ... passing of loved ones & friends ... retire... health changes ...; steady decline in health & vitality in elder years...

BUT – **God is immutable.** Means: unchanging over time.

God is unchangeable in His essence, His nature, His characteristics. Perfect.

He doesn't have new plans, new thoughts, new will, or new purpose.

So – Q – then why pray?

Hezekiah prayed - God granted him another 15 years of life (2 Ki 20)

Ninevah not destroyed (Jonah 3)

- Prayer doesn't change God's mind... we pray for God to confer those things which he already desired.

God wills blessings ... our prayers are the means of bestowing them.

- In other words, God has determined that He will do some things only as a result of our praying for them.
 - o **Matt. 7:11** – “So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

He doesn't change His mind ... realize a mistake, backtrack, or have do-overs.

He can't increase / decrease. He lacks nothing; needs nothing outside Himself.

- **Numbers 23:19** - “God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind.”
 - o Hard to grasp. We so easily change our minds or break our promises

When we take oaths, we swear by one greater than ourselves.

EX: “I swear by Almighty God that I will tell the truth, the whole truth...”

God makes on oath and swears by himself because there is none greater.

Gen 22:16-17 - “By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will multiply your descendants like the stars in the sky & the sand on the seashore.”

- Paul noted that God made an unchangeable promise – **Heb. 6:13** – “When God made his promise to **Abraham**, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself... “after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.”

B/c God is unchanging, we can depend on His word. Count on His Promises!

- o He promised to establish a nation thru Abraham... He did.
- o He promised to send the Messiah – a savior... He did.
- o He promised to establish His church... He did.
 - He promises to love us forever, unconditionally... He will.
 - He promises to bless us if we are obedient:

“You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country... You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.” – Deut. 28

Peace, comfort & stability – knowing God doesn’t change.

Song of the week – “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand” – by Chicago Mass Choir

Time is filled with swift transition,
None, none on earth unmoved can stand
Build your hopes on things eternal
And then hold, hold onto God's unchanging hand