

Subject: *Our Unchanging God*

Scripture: *Malachi 3:6*

The world is always changing. People often change. Our circumstances are constantly changing. The Bible reveals the God who never changes. The fact that God never changes is very comforting and very convicting. Think of all that God says in Malachi 3:6. Listen to what God says in other scriptures:

Psalms 102:25-27 ²⁵ *Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.* ²⁶ *They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:* ²⁷ *But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.* This is quoted in Hebrews 1:12.

Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

James 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

A related truth is that God is faithful, trustworthy, as the great hymn says, "Great is thy faithfulness...thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not, great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."

1. God is unchanging in His perfection

He cannot change for the better. He is perfect. He cannot change for the worse. He would then be less than perfect. He is perfect in His character, His attributes. This is one of the great truths about God. Everything He was, He still is, and will forever be. Is He omnipotent? He is and always will be. Is He omniscient? He is and always will be. Is He omnipresent? Holy? Good? Gracious and merciful? Yes, and He always will be. Everything that God reveals about Himself will always be true. He is unchangeable. When you see all God's attributes in the light of His unchanging character, He is worthy of all the more praise and glory.

Exodus 3:13-14 ¹³ *And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?* ¹⁴ *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

The name Jehovah (Yahweh) reveals that God is not only eternal, self-existent, and self-sufficient. He is unchanging. Contrary to what some people believe, God is not getting old. He is not weak or sick. He is not retired. He is not forgetful. He is not fickle or moody.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 ³ *Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.* ⁴ *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

This image of God as the Rock speaks for itself. What a picture of God as the stable, permanent, unchanging foundation and shelter.

2. God is unchanging in His purposes and plans

He does what He wants when He wants. He cannot be controlled or manipulated or bribed. God has a plan and purpose for creation. He has a plan and purpose for redemption. His purposes and His plans are always consistent with His character.

Isaiah 14:24 *The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.*

Isaiah 46:9-10⁹ *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,*¹⁰ *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.*

Daniel 4:35 *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*

Romans 8:28-30²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*³⁰ *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

God has a purpose and a plan and He included us in it. Our salvation is not an afterthought. It is designed by the God who plans His work and works His plan. Our salvation was planned by God the Father, purchased by God the Son, and produced by God the Spirit.

3. God is unchanging in His precepts and promises

People often say things they don't mean and make promises they don't keep. But God is always true to His word. God says what He means and He means what He says. His commands are unchanging. His principles never change. His promises are reliable.

Numbers 23:19 *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

Titus 1:1-2¹ *Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;*² *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.*

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

People sometimes make promises they don't intend to keep and sometimes they make promises they are not able to keep. God is always willing *and* able to keep His promises. His precepts and promises are unchanging because His character is unchanging.

I want to give you a word of caution. God's promises never change, and neither do His warnings. He has given us promises about Heaven, and He has given us warnings about Hell. A wise person will believe His promises and heed His warnings.

As we think of God as unchanging, we must not think of Him as unmoved or unfeeling. Sin always grieves God, and obedience always gives Him joy. There is joy in Heaven when one sinner that repents (Lk. 15:7).

Since we know that God never changes, how does that affect our life? What humility we ought to have. It ought to humble us and cause us to repent of our sins. What hope we ought to have just to know that His mercy is always available to us, His power can never fail to accomplish His will, His mind will never change toward us, His love will never change, His promises and threats will never be altered or broken. His holy character will never be tarnished. How that ought to cause us to worship Him and live in such a way that would glorify Him.

God is unchangeable, but we are changeable. That is actually a good thing. What hope would we have unless God could change us by God's power and grace? There is hope for us if we are willing to let our unchanging God change us. Ask Him to change you for His glory. Only God can bring real and lasting changes to your life. You may think you need God to change your circumstances, but what you really need is for God to change you.