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# Sermon Notes

February 16, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

## Our Unchanging God Psalm 102:25-26, Hebrews 13:8

### Change

- ❖ A fact of life
  - some people love and thrive on change
  - other people resist and deny change
- ❖ What are some ways you experience change within you?

### Psalm 102

- ❖ What are some changes the author of this psalm faces?
  - what is the point of the psalmist's litany of complaints?
  - why does the psalmist expose himself in this way and parade his weaknesses for all the world to see?
- ❖ The opening of this psalm lays the groundwork for the psalmist to "serve up" some important truths
  - although we keep changing, our circumstances keep changing, the world around us keeps changing...
  - God does not change!

- ❖ God is
  - *enthroned forever* (v. 12)
  - *remembered throughout all generations* (v. 12)
  - *the same and your years have no end.* (v. 27)
- ❖ The psalmist proclaims God's eternity and God's immutability (unchangeableness) side by side

### God DOES NOT Change

- ❖ Malachi 3:6, *I the LORD do not change*
  - God cannot change for the better or the worse
  - God's power does not diminish
  - God does not grow old
  - all of God's attributes are unchanging
- ❖ God's plans and purposes never change
  - we change our plans because of unforeseen circumstances, lack of resources, etc...
  - *The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.* (Psalm 33:11)
- ❖ What God has created, God will one day cause to perish and pass away
  - this is not annihilation or obliteration

- God will refashion creation into something that is far more glorious than the way it is now (2 Peter 3:10-13)
- everything that exists will be purified, set free from the curse and bondage under which it now exists and be made more beautiful for God's glory and God's purposes
- in the midst of that unimaginable sea of change, God **IS** the same
- ❖ God is the rock on which you can stand when the torrent of life is sweeping away everything around you (Ps 46:1-3)
  - **I AM WHO I AM** (Exodus 3:13-14), an announcement of God's eternal changelessness
  - the announcement of this name is a source of strength, encouragement and comfort to God's people in every generation

### Peace, Comfort, Confidence

- ❖ Because God never changes, we have confidence that the Lord will continue to treat sinful people in the same way He has always treated sinful people: with grace and mercy
  - God moves in the lives of His people to bring them to repentance and to give them the gift of saving faith
  - God sets His love on His people in a way that humbles them and reminds them that salvation is all of God
  - our ability to persevere in the faith is completely dependent upon God's power
- ❖ Salvation is all of God, all for God, all through God

- God creates a people who will praise His name and proclaim the excellencies of the One who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light
- God refines His people and prepares them for the unchanging (imperishable, undefiled, unfading) inheritance He has for them in heaven
- ❖ God showers the same quality of eternal love and mercy on us that He has poured out on all His people throughout history (Hebrews 13:8)
  - there is only ONE God (not an OT God and NT God)
  - God hates sin and opposes it just as much today as He ever has
  - living on the "other side of Calvary" we have the freedom and joy of knowing how Jesus absorbs the burden and penalty of God's wrath against our sin
- ❖ God is continually working out His unchanging plan and purpose for us (Jeremiah 31:3, Psalm 100:5)

### Personal Reflection

1. Our unchanging God says He loves you with an everlasting love. Read about and meditate on this everlasting love in Jer 31:3, Ps 100:5 and Is 54:10. What comfort and confidence does this give you as you face changes within you and in the world around you?
2. Because *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8) we have confidence that God always has and always will respond to the sin of His people with grace and mercy. Spend time worshiping the Lord for the freedom and joy that knowing this brings