

## ***God Is Impassible***

### **Hebrews 2:14-18**

#### Main Point:

Since God is impassible, give thanks for the incarnation of Christ and take comfort in your sufferings.

#### 1. God's impassibility

#### 2. God's impassibility in the gospel

#### 3. God's impassibility in the Christian life

**Psalm 102:25-27** 25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26 ... Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. 27 But You are the same, And Your years will have no end. (NKJV)

**Malachi 3:6** 6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change ... (NKJV)

**WCF 2.1** There is but one only, living, and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions ...

**Matthew Barrett** "Impassibility, a corollary to immutability, means that God does not experience emotional change in any way; he does not suffer."

**J.I. Packer** "[Impassibility does not mean] impassivity, unconcern, and impersonal detachment in the face of the creation ... [nor] inability or unwillingness to empathize with human pain and grief ... It means simply that God's experiences do not come upon him as ours come upon us. His are foreknown, willed, and chosen by himself, and are not involuntary surprises forced on him from outside ..."

**Kevin DeYoung** "In the person of Jesus Christ, the impassible suffers."

**Kevin DeYoung** "If God as God can suffer then the incarnation is robbed of its glorious condescension. There's no mystery and no majesty in the incarnation apart from impassibility. Why become a man if God is capable of experiencing all that needs to be experienced in order to save men?"

**Matthew Barrett** "If God is subject to emotional change, how do we know whether he will stay true to his promises? His gospel promises might change as quickly as his mood swings. And if God is vulnerable to emotional fluctuation, what confidence do we have that his own character will remain constant? His love might not remain steadfast, his mercy may no longer be eternal, and his justice can guarantee no future victory."

**Matthew Barrett** "Impassibility provides great hope, for only a God who is not vulnerable to suffering in his divinity is capable of rescuing a world drowning in suffering."