

Things That Are Unchanging

We are living in a changing world! Neighborhoods change, people change; it seems that nothing remains the same. Scientifically, we know that change is inevitable, as is illustrated by the second law of thermodynamics, which, briefly stated, says: “things in the world tend to random decay.” This may be illustrated by the existence of a beautiful new house, which has been vacated by its owner who moved out, and left it untouched and unvisited for months on end. It may be further illustrated by a new car, parked on a vacant lot, where it sits completely untouched for a couple of years.

All accountable “senior citizens” have witnessed so much change in modern society. It seems that Post Modernism has blurred, or even erased the lines that exist between right and wrong. We have witnessed the secularization of society, the erosion of the family, and a steady deterioration of morals among so many. Some of us remember when the school day would begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, reading a few verses from the Bible, and prayer directed unto God. Now, thanks to the influence of Secular Humanism (which, for the most part, has become our state religion), teachers can be fired for even mentioning the name of God in the class room, or if they dare to label homosexual conduct as sinful! We have even witnessed a re-definition of marriage, the emergence of transgender issues, and God-fearing company owners being sued because their conscience would not allow them to provide floral arrangements, or pizzas to “gay weddings.” Yes, we are living in a world of change (often swift change!), and this has left countless people with a feeling of frustration, fear, and uncertainty.

However, amid all the changes which engulf society in general, there are some things which do not change, to which we must cling, and from which we can find comfort, hope, and peace of mind. With that in mind, we now consider some:

“Things that are Unchanging.”

God is Unchanging and Unchangeable! Regarding this point, the psalmist referred to the heavens and the earth and said, “*they will be changed,*” and then praised God, saying, “*But you are the same. And your years will have no end,*” Psalm 102:25-27. In Mal. 3:6 God said “*I am the Lord, I do not change.*” In James 1:17 God is described as “*the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*” God does not change in His existence; He is “*from everlasting to everlasting,*” Ps. 90:1,2. God does not change in His character, for He is the great “**I AM**,” Ex. 3:14; He is what He was; He was what He is; what He is He will always be! God does not change in His nature, for “*He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself,*” 2 Tim. 2:13.

Jesus Christ is Unchanging. This fact is clearly stated in Heb. 13:8, which speaks of Jesus in these words: “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*” Yes, when Jesus came to the earth, He changed His form, but not His essence. He was “*made in the likeness of men,*” so that He might become “*obedient unto death,*” Phil. 2:7,8. But Jesus did not surrender His divinity when He came to the earth; to the contrary, He “*was the Word,*” which was “*with God,*” and which “*was God,*” John 1:1, and which John said “*became flesh and dwelt among us,*” John 1:14. Yes, Jesus is

unchanging! And because He is unchanging, Jesus remains our “access to the Father,” John 14:6; He is able to save those who “*come to God through Him*,” Heb. 7:25; He still wants all people to be saved, 2 Peter 3:9, and His “*come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden*,” invitation has never been rescinded, Matt. 11:28.

God’s Word is Unchanging! Yes, there has been a change in dispensations — from the Patriarchal Age when He addressed the people through the heads of the families, Gen. 18:19, the Law of Moses which was given to Israel to bring them to Christ, Deut. 5:1-2; Gal. 3:19-25, and the Gospel Age, which is now in existence and in which God speaks to us through Jesus Christ and which became effectual by reason of His death upon the cross, Heb. 1:1-2; 9:15-17. Inasmuch as God’s word is unchanging, its nature has never changed; it is “*perfect*,” Ps. 19:7; it is “*settled in heaven*,” Ps. 119:89; it permits no change or alteration on the part of man, Rev. 22:18-19; it will last forever, Matt. 24:35, and it will judge us in the last day, John 12:48. Inasmuch as the nature of God’s word does not change, and inasmuch as we live under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ, **then:** (a) what it meant in the first century it means now; what it required in the first century is required now; the doctrine preached in the first century must be preached now; the moral requirements preached in the first century are still mandatory. Cf. 2 Tim. 1:1-2; I Tim. 1:3; Tit. 2:11-12, etc.

The Church Jesus built (as outlined in the New Testament) has not changed. It has not changed because it is regulated by the word of God which has not changed. God’s word is still the “*seed*” of the kingdom, Luke 8:11, and an underlying principle of “*seed*” (whether in the natural or spiritual realm) is that it always produces after its “*kind*,” Gen 1:12. This means that what was produced by the preaching of the pure gospel of Christ in the first century will be produced in the 21st century. The church Jesus built is unchangeable because it is that unshakeable kingdom foretold by the inspired prophet Daniel, Dan. 2:44; Heb. 12:28; Col. 1:13. Inasmuch as the church Jesus built is unchangeable, then its God-given **marks of identity** remain the same in the 21st century as it was in the first century when it was built. It’s creed is still the word of God, 2 Tim. 3:16-19; 2 John 9; a multiplicity of congregations are still referred to as “*the churches of Christ*,” Rom. 16:16; its head is still Jesus Christ, Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; its Lord’s day worship still consists of singing praises to God, prayer, the contribution, partaking of the Lord’s Supper, and continuing in the apostles doctrine, Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2, etc; its organization on the local level still consists of saints in Christ Jesus, bishops, and deacons, Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23, and its terms of entrance remain the same as in the first century.

The Christian’s manner of life has not changed. God’s people must still present their “*bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God*,” refusing to be “*conformed to the world*,” but seeking to be “*transformed by the renewing*” of their minds, seeking to “*prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*,” Rom. 12:1-2. They must still cleanse themselves “*from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God*,” 2 Cor. 7:1. They must still abstain from the “*works of the flesh*,” and they must still develop those character qualities that constitute “*the fruit of the Spirit*,” Gal. 5:19-23.

Conclusion: In this changing world it is reassuring to know that there are some things which remain the same and do not change. Our plea in this changing world is for precious souls to **obey** the unchanging gospel of the unchanging Jesus Christ, Who was sent by the unchanging God to redeem us from the muck, the mire, and the filth of sin so that we may receiving the unchanging promise of our unchanging God.

*** —Bobby Witherington

“To be truly honest, one must be humble.”