

THE UNCHANGING GOSPEL IN THE CHANGING WORLD
James 1:17

Introduction:

1. More changes have occurred in the last 100 years than in all past history.
 - a. Great empires have fallen; scores of new nations have been born.
 - b. Medical science has cured smallpox, diphtheria, tuberculosis, polio and many other diseases which plagued mankind for centuries.
 - c. Transportation technology has developed cars, airplanes and space travel.
 - d. Communication technology has given us radio, TV, the internet, cell phones, etc.
 - e. Social customs have dramatically changed also.
2. The world continues to change rapidly; it is nearly impossible to keep up.
3. There are some things that never change.

Discussion:

I. GOD NEVER CHANGES.

A. The Bible speaks of the immutability of GOD.

1. “For I am the LORD, I do not change” (Mal. 3:6).
2. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (Jam. 1:17).
3. If GOD changed as men do, we could have no confidence, assurance or hope.

B. GOD’s attributes never change.

1. He is still omnipotent {all powerful}, omniscient {all knowing} and omnipresent {everywhere} (Psa. 139).
2. He is still a GOD of love, mercy and grace (1 John 4:8).
3. He is still a GOD of justice also (Rom. 11:22; Heb. 10:31).
4. GOD keeps His promises for He cannot lie (Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18).

II. CHRIST NEVER CHANGES.

A. The Hebrew writer declared: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

B. Jesus is still man’s only Savior and the only way to the Father

(John 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:11,12).

C. He offered Himself for us “once for all.”

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation” (Heb. 9:27,28).

“For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” (Heb. 10:14).

D. His cleansing blood is ever available to Christians (1 John 1:7).

E. He continues to be the Christian’s High Priest:

“But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood” (Heb. 7:24).

F. Saints continue to look for His second coming.

“For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:20).

III. THE GOSPEL NEVER CHANGES.

A. Man is still a sinner and alienated from GOD (Rom. 3:23).

B. The death, burial and resurrection of Christ still provide the means of our salvation (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

C. The Gospel must not be changed:

“But even if we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8).

“... contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

IV. CHRIST’S CHURCH NEVER CHANGES.

A. When Peter confessed: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living GOD“ Jesus promised, “Upon this rock I will build My church” (Matt. 16:16-18).

- B. Churches founded by men often change.**
 - 1. The Roman Catholic Church changed its “fish on Friday” requirement, de-sanctified Christopher, put the Mass into English, etc.**
 - 2. The Mormon Church changed its policy of discrimination against blacks in 1978.**
 - 3. Most Protestant denominations have reversed their policy on ordaining women to the ministry.**

- C. Christ’s church never changes for it is built according to the pattern.**
 - 1. Its unchanging creed is Jesus Christ, GOD’s Son (Matt. 16:16).**
 - 2. Its rule of faith is the Holy Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16,17).**
 - 3. Its worship is in spirit and truth (John 4:24).**
 - 4. Its organization is elders and deacons in each church with Christ as the Head in Heaven (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18).**
 - 5. Its mission is to preach the Gospel to the world, edify the saved and help the needy (Matt. 28:19,20; Gal. 6:10).**
 - 6. It is identified by Christ’s name (Acts 11:26; Rom. 16:16).**

V. GOD’S STANDARD OF MORALITY NEVER CHANGES.

- A. New standards have become accepted.**
 - 1. Situation ethics.**
 - 2. The new morality.**

- B. GOD is not pleased with those who remove the distinction between right and wrong (Isa. 5:20).**

- C. GOD’s Word still contrasts good and evil (Gal. 5:19-23).**

- D. GOD will one day judge us according to His Word (Eccl. 12:13,14).**

Conclusion;

- 1. GOD’s plan of salvation has not changed.**
 - a. One must hear the Gospel (Rom. 10:17).**
 - b. One must believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15,16).**
 - c. One must repent of his sins (Acts 2:38).**
 - d. One must confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of GOD (Acts 8:37).**
 - e. One must be buried in baptism for the remission of sins (Rom. 6:4).**

- 2. Everything on this earth changes, but GOD’s will never changes.**

