"GOD NEVER CHANGES"
(The Immutability of God)
Malachi 3:6; James 1:17

INTRODUCTION:

Some things change -

1) Nations

2) Society

3) Fashions

In many respects, we live in "a changing world" (note: a changing world that is heading in the direction God planned and promised it would).

***God, however, never changes! He is immutable!**

Definition of Immutability: "Immutable" means "incapable of change."

I. God's _____ never changes (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8)

A. His _____ remains the same forever
(What God <u>is</u> never changes)

B. His _____ remains the same forever
(What God can <u>do</u> never changes)

II. God's _____ never changes

A. His plan ("desire") cannot be altered (Job 23:13)

B. His plan ("counsel") will stand forever (Ps. 33:11)

III. God's _____ never changes

A. His Word is "forever settled in Heaven" (Ps. 119:89)

B. He does what He says

1. God's promises to Israel will never change (Mal. 3:6; Ro. 11:29)

2. God's promises to the believer will never change (Heb. 6:17-18)

C. He cannot go back on His Word (Num. 23:19; I Sam. 15:29)

IV. God's _____ never changes (Eccl. 3:14, 7:13)
(What God does cannot be changed unless He allows it)

CONCLUSION: Man's response to God's immutability.

The fact that God never changes should bring:

1. Security to the saved (James 1:17)

2. Terror to the wicked

"GOD NEVER CHANGES"
(The Immutability of God)
Malachi 3:6; James 1:17

INTRODUCTION:

Some things change -

1) Nations

EX: America since 1776

a) Politically - more socialistic since F.D.R.

b) Morally - loose morals, flexible standards

c) Philosophically - views of economics
views toward homosexuality
views toward women's rights

d) Technologically - advanced in space, travel, home appliances, etc.

e) Economically - value of dollar; stock market

2) Society

a) People change - Man, Like Jacob's son Reuben, is "unstable as water."

People don't change evolutionally (not improvement with time); nor intrinsically (still have depraved nature); but with rebirth (John 3), transformed thinking (Rom. 12:1-2), and future glorification (II Cor. 3:18).

b) Neighborhoods change - EX: decay of Corona

3) Fashions

--dress and hair styles

--car designs

--fads

In many respects, we live in "a changing world" (note: a changing world that is heading in the direction God planned and promised it would).

***God, however, never changes! He is immutable!**

Definition of Immutability: "Immutable" means "incapable of change." God "never differs from Himself" (Tozer, p. 80).

Everything about God is permanent. There are no variables with God. He does not grow, evolve, or improve with time. God is not capable of nor susceptible to change, either by increase or decrease, by development or by self-evolution. . . He could not be less than He is, and, since "He filleth all things," (Jer. 23:24) He could not be more than He is (Chafer).

I. God's <u>NATURE</u> never changes (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8)

Because God is immutable, He is comparable to a <u>rock</u> (Deut. 32:4, 15, 18, 30, 31).

He is a boulder, that no one can budge; a foundation that will never shift; an anchor that cannot move.

A. His character remains the same forever
(What God is never changes)

God never changes in His holiness, righteousness, trueness, faithfulness, love (Jer. 31:3), mercy (Ps. 100:5), graciousness, and patience.

"All that God is He has always been, and all that He has been and is, He will ever be" (Tozer, p. 82).

B. His ability remains the same forever
(What God can do never changes)

God never changes in His power (Is. 26:4); knowledge; wisdom; omnipresence, and sovereignty.

Change implies imperfection. Imperfect things can change from bad to better, or from incomplete to more complete. God being perfect "cannot change for the better, for He is already perfect; and being perfect, He cannot change for the worse" Pink, Attributes, p. 37).

Change implies dependency. Man, being dependent, is effected by things outside of himself. God being self-existent is not. Nothing outside of God can improve Him or deteriorate Him. He is dependent upon no one and limited by nothing. he is the eternal "I am" (Ex. 3:14).

NOTE: Heb. 13:8 - "Christ in essence never changed. But in ability (kinosis - He surrendered the independent use of certain of His divine attributes while on earth - Phil. 2:5ff).

II. God's PLAN never changes

A. His plan ("desire") cannot be altered (Job 23:13)

B. His plan ("counsel") will stand forever (Ps. 33:11)

One of two things causes a man to change his mind and reverse his plans: poor planning (Lack of foresight to anticipate everything) or lack of power to execute them. But since God is both omniscient and omnipotent, there is never any need for Him to revise His plans (Pink, p. 38).

*Important note: Even though God never changes, the way He chooses to work throughout each age or time period may. His ultimate plan is never altered, but His modes of operation and His requirements for man to follow may change from dispensation to dispensation.

Examples:

Flood, O.T. - Fire in future
Working through Israel - Working through Church
Mosaic Covenant - New Covenant (Heb. 10:9)
Literal sacrifices, O.T. - Spiritual sacrifices
Signs & wonders - no signs today; but more in future

III. God's <u>WORD</u> never changes

A. His Word is "forever settled in Heaven" (Ps. 119:89)

Nothing God has said about the past will be modified, and nothing He said about the future will be rescinded (taken back).

B. He does what He says

1. God's promises to <u>Israel</u> will never change (Mal. 3:6; Ro. 11:29)

2. God's promises to the <u>believer</u> will never change (Heb. 6:17-18)

C. He cannot go back on His Word (Num. 23:19; I Sam. 15:29)

Question: How can God repent? (Does God change His mind?)

Examples of God "repenting":

1) Gen. 6:6 - "It repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."

2) Exodus 32:14 - "And the LORD repented of the evil which He thought to do unto his people."

3) I Sam. 15:10-11 - "It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king."

4) II Sam. 24:16 - "...the LORD repented him of the evil..."

NOTE: God's repentance is not a change in His character, but an expression of emotional sorrow.

God's repentance is not a change in God's character or His purpose; but a change in His attitude and actions toward men, when those men change.

EX: The unsaved are under God's wrath (Jn. 3:36; Rom. 1:18; Col. 3:6); when they trust Christ, they are under God's grace (Eph. 2:8) and peace (Rom. 5:1).

IV. God's WORK never changes (Eccl. 3:14, 7:13)
(What God does cannot be changed unless He allows it)

Evolution is a contradiction of God's immutability (when God made the species, He did so in order that they could not alter their genetic make-up.

CONCLUSION: Man's response to God's immutability.

The fact that God never changes should bring:

1. Security to the saved (James 1:17)

2. Terror to the wicked

Though society may, God never changes in His attitude toward sin. He hates it today as He always has and will in the future (Examples: God's attitude remains the same today about divorce, abortion, role of women, morality, etc.