

You Can Trust the Unchanging Christ
Hebrews 13:8

Introduction

Bob Dylan once wrote, “The Times they are a changing,” It does not take much to how true that statement really is. In 2020, we have witnessed a world rapidly changing. “Yes, Mr. Dylan, you are right. The times they are a changing.”

So how does this make you feel as you move into a new year? Think for a moment, “What things happened this year that were good and wonderful, though you did not expect them?” Now, think for a moment, “What things happened this year that were bad and awful, which you were powerless over?”

People come; people go. Jobs come through; jobs are lost. Presidents are elected, laws are changed, foreign countries threaten. Family member are born, family members die. And rarely do we ever have any real control over these things.

Life in an ever-changing world can be overwhelming? And as we embark on 2021, only 10 days into the year, this next year will be filled with changes and uncertainties, gains and losses, that are simply out of our control. What will we do? To whom will we go? How do we survive in times like these?

Read Hebrews 13:8

Exposition

The letter of Hebrews was written to a church that was facing its own version of these questions about the future. They were growing old and tired, with very little resolve to keep pressing on. Instead of moving forward like a rushing river, they were meandering like a gentle trickle of water in a stream. There was no sense of urgency. The author of Hebrews comes to the conclusion of his letter in chapter 13 where we encounter this morning’s verse: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

I. Who is Jesus Christ?

Consider the portrait that the book of Hebrews of Jesus:

Hebrews 1:1-4 - Jesus is the eternal Son of God who “upholds all things by the word of His power.”

Hebrews 2:5-9 - Jesus is the reigning Lord of Heaven and Earth.

Hebrews 2:14-18 - Jesus is the One who destroys Satan who possess the power of death.

Hebrews 3:1-6, 4:1-13 - Jesus is the One who is greater than Moses and Joshua, providing a permanent place of dwelling for the believer and true rest and freedom from the oppression of our enemies.

Hebrews 5:7-10 – Jesus is the Source of eternal salvation for all who trust Him.

Hebrews 8:6-7 – Jesus is the Mediator of a better covenant based on better promises than the Old Covenant (Mosaic Covenant).

Hebrews 9:11-14 – Jesus is great high priest who perfectly and once for all appears before God and secures eternal redemption for all who trust in Him.

II. **What impact should the person and work of Jesus have on us?**

Consider the overarching message of Hebrews 12-13:

Christians should run the race of faith, endure hostility, receive discipline, strive for peace with everyone, strive for holiness, destroy bitterness, flee sexual immorality, be grateful for salvation, love one another, be hospitable, honor marriage, keep themselves free from the love of money, and praise the LORD!

Conclusion - How could this possibly happen?

The readers of the letter of Hebrews would only be able to fulfill these expectations if one who saves them and works in them is changeless.

For these Hebrews, chapter 13 verse 8 is not just a simple doctrine statement. It is a matter of life or death. Without Christ faithfully representing us before the Father, we would live in constant fear of whether or not God was angry at us, yet Jesus does not take a day off. He “ever-lives” to represent believers before His Father. Without Christ being the source of eternal salvation, we would not see heaven. We would fall away, yet He is faithful to keep us and see to it that the work that was begun in us comes to completion. Without Christ we would have no strength to put to death the bitterness and envy. Furthermore, we would have no true example of holiness and peace.

Application

In 2021, more than likely, we will lose some of our friends and family, we might lose our jobs, we might lose our security, we might lose all sorts of things. We cannot predict what will happen, what types of changes will come.

In 2021, we might become rich, we might (as I am praying) grow exponentially as a church, we might meet new friends and gain new family, all sorts of things might be added unto us. We cannot predict what will happen, what types of changes will come.

But ONE THING THAT WE CAN KNOW FOR SURE: JESUS CHRIST!

He does not and will not ever change!

In Him, there is no shadow of turning!

He will continue to be LORD of the universe.
He will continue to destroy the works of Satan!
He will continue to be our great high priest!
He will continue to provide for His people!
He will continue to sustain us!
He will never leave nor will He forsake us!

And because of this, we will not be consumed! For HE is faithful! He is constant! He is unchanging! And this compels us to run the race while there is time! This emboldens us to call other to trust in Him, the One who has accomplished eternal redemption in himself for all who believe in Him!

Are you overcome with fear this morning? Do the ever-changing circumstances in this world cause you great anxiety? Are you, like these Hebrews, tempted to give up or coax through the rest of your life because you are overwhelmed at how fast this world is moving and how quickly you are getting behind? Does your life feel out of order? Do you feel like your world is caving in? Like you are sinking? Like there is nothing constant in this world?

TAKE CARE! You can trust the unchanging Christ! For Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!