

“The Lord Does Not Change”
(Malachi 3:6)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. We come to the final attribute we’ll be considering as a reason why we should love God: God’s immutability: the fact that He does not change.
 - a. What good would it be if the Lord has all the attributes we’ve seen
 - (i) But all that could change in a moment,
 - (ii) Or in a year, ten years, or a million?

 - b. If He could ever become other than what He is
 - (i) Then we could only fear what He could become,
 - (ii) Not genuinely love Him.

2. Remember,
 - a. If the Lord had all the power and knowledge He has
 - (i) But did not have love,
 - (ii) He would be the greatest monster that could ever exist.

 - b. If His love could change,
Then this would become a real possibility.

B. Preview.

1. This evening, let’s consider that God is immutable.
2. We’ll see
 - a. First, that He never changes.
 - b. And second, why this should not only bring us the greatest comfort, but also give us the greatest reason to love Him.

II. Sermon.

A. First, let’s consider that God never changes.

1. In our passage,
 - a. The Lord is promising through Malachi
 - (i) To send His messenger
 - (ii) To prepare the way for the Lord.

 - b. When the Lord came,
 - (i) He would purify His people:
 - (ii) He would remove the dross – those who are wicked and unrepentant,
 - (iii) And He would cleanse His people of their sins,
 - (iv) That they might again present offerings in righteousness.

 - c. That messenger was John the Baptist

Who prepared the way for the Lord.

- d. And the Lord was none other than our Lord Jesus Christ
 - (i) Who in His ministry
 - (ii) Gathered the wheat from His threshing floor –
That is gathered His people in through the Gospel –
 - (iii) And burned up the chaff with unquenchable fire –
 - (a) Brought judgment on the rest of the Jews in 70 AD,
 - (b) As well as eternal judgment on them for their sins –
 - (c) Particularly their sin of condemning and crucifying Him.

- e. The Lord said He would do this
 - (i) And that He could not fail,
 - (ii) Because He never changes.
 - (iii) “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”

2. God cannot change and never will

In at least three ways: In His Being, His purpose and His character.

- a. First, His Being can never change.
 - (i) He can never become other than what He already is.
 - (a) He cannot become more or less powerful,
 - (b) More or less eternal,
 - (c) More or less present,
 - (d) More or less knowledgeable.

 - (ii) He is infinite and will forever be infinite.
 - (a) When He spoke and created the universe,
 - (1) There wasn't the slightest fluctuation in His power.
 - (2) There wasn't the least limiting of His presence.

 - (b) As thousands of years have passed after His creation,
 - (1) And His plan has unfolded on billions of people,
 - (2) He hasn't learned anything,
 - (3) That He didn't already know.

 - (iii) There is no force in heaven or earth
 - (a) Powerful enough to make even the slightest change in Him.
 - (b) He is, and must be, forever the same.

- b. Second, this means His purpose or His plan can never change:
 - (i) He can never repent from anything He has said He will do.
 - (a) We read in Scripture,
 - (b) “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Num. 23:19).

- (ii) For the Lord to repent of something,
 - (a) There would have had to be something He didn't know
 - (b) When He first purposed or promised to do that thing.
 - (c) There would have been something that could have taken Him by surprise
 - (d) That would have made Him change His mind.
 - (e) But He knows everything –
 - (1) He knows it because it's what He's chosen to do,
 - (2) Since He knows what could happen under any given set of circumstances,
 - (3) He's already made the best possible choices.
 - (4) And He's not going to turn back from them,
 - (5) Because there will never be any reason to do so.

- (iii) It's true that He sometimes represents Himself
 - (a) As having changed His mind or as repenting,
 - (b) Such as in Noah's day,
 - (1) When He said He was sorry that He made man (Gen. 6:6).
 - (A) This doesn't mean He really changed His mind.
 - (B) If He did, this would put Him in direct contradiction with Himself
 - (C) When He says He never does.
 - (2) Rather, the Lord was simply saying
 - (A) That though He made man knowing these things would happen,
 - (B) He also knew that when these things would happen,
 - (C) He would be very displeased with them,
 - (D) And that He would say He was.
 - (E) He hasn't changed His mind.

- c. Third, this also means that His character can never change.
 - (i) He will always be holy.
 - (a) He cannot become more or less holy/loving than He already is,
 - (b) More or less merciful,
 - (c) More or less gracious,
 - (d) More or less patient, kind, benevolent or just.

 - (ii) Which means His heart towards you will never change.
 - (a) His love for you is as eternal as God Himself –
 - (b) Not that you've existed for as long as He has,
 - (c) But God has loved you and purposed to save you from all eternity.
 - (d) As our brother Dick Nielsen used to say,
 - (1) God's love for you has no end,
 - (2) Because it had no beginning.

B. Now why should the fact that God never changes

Be a reason for you to love Him?

1. First, because that which you love about God will never change.
 - a. As a Christian, that which you love most about God is His holiness –
 - (i) Without it, He would be a monster.
 - (ii) It's what makes Him to be as beautiful and glorious Lord as He is.
 - b. His holiness –
 - (i) His perfect love for everything that is good and right –
 - (ii) Will never change.
 - (iii) And so you will be able to love Him
 - (iv) Through all eternity
 - (v) And you will never grow tired
 - (vi) Of loving Him.
2. Second, it also means that His love for you
And His purpose to redeem and keep you will never change.
 - a. His love towards you,
 - (i) That moved Him to send His Son,
 - (ii) To place you in His Son,
 - (iii) And to give you His righteousness,
 - (iv) Will never change.
 - b. And because His purpose for you will never change,
 - (i) You will forever be in Jesus,
 - (ii) Justified by His righteousness,
 - (iii) And made beautiful by His merits.
 - (iv) He will forever love you in His Son
 - (v) Because His love for Him will never change.
 - c. His love that singled you out from all eternity,
 - (i) Will be consummated to all eternity.
 - (ii) Don't forget,
 - (a) The Lord already knew
 - (1) Every sin you would ever commit
 - (2) When He saved you.
 - (b) There is nothing you can do
To take Him by surprise.
 - (c) Knowing these things,
 - (1) He still chose you and saved you.
 - (2) He will never change.
 - (3) And His promises to you will never fail.
3. Third, it means His ability to keep you will never change.
 - a. He has infinite and eternal power at His disposal
 - (i) Not only to keep you in being,

- (ii) But to secure you from all danger.
 - (iii) Because that power will never change in the slightest,
 - (iv) You are eternally secure.
- b. It doesn't matter how many myriads of years pass by
- (i) They are nothing to God,
 - (ii) And so will be nothing to you.
 - (iii) He will keep you forever.
 - (iv) Safe in His care.
4. And so can you love a God like this?
- a. Do you love Him?
- (i) Do you love Him for more than what He gives?
 - (ii) Do you love Him for who and what He is?
 - (iii) Particularly because He is holy?
- b. If you do, then you are His.
- (i) And if you are His, you are safe for all eternity.
 - (a) The One whom your soul loves most of all,
 - (b) Will never change,
 - (c) And so will keep you safely with Himself
 - (d) For all eternity.
 - (ii) The only thing left for you to do – the only thing He desires
 - (a) Is to show your love for Him
 - (1) Through your obedience.
 - (2) Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15).
 - (3) It shouldn't be that hard considering all the love He has shown you.
 - (b) He is infinite love –
 - (1) You love those who love you with finite love,
 - (2) Can't you love someone who loves you with infinite love?
 - (c) He has given you the same love for holiness that He has –
 - (1) Isn't your heart already inclined towards obeying Him?
 - (2) Isn't it already moving you
 - (3) To love His holy Law?
 - (d) He has saved you from everlasting misery –
 - (1) An eternity that you deserved, by the way –
 - (2) And has given you an eternal home in heaven.
 - (3) Don't you already want to serve Him out of thankfulness
 - (4) For His infinite mercies?
 - (e) The Lord of the universe has called you to obedience –

- (1) Shouldn't your sense of duty –
 - (2) Of what is right and wrong –
 - (3) Compel you to obey?
- (f) If you're a true believer,
- (1) Then you will be one in more than just words,
 - (2) You'll also be one in action.
 - (3) You will love the Lord from your heart,
 - (A) In your thoughts,
 - (B) In your words,
 - (C) And in your actions.
 - (4) Your whole life will be
 - (A) One continual act
 - (B) Of love and devotion to Him.
- (g) If God is worthy to be loved,
- (1) Then love Him.
 - (2) Don't just say you do,
 - (3) Don't just tell Him you do.
 - (4) Show Him you do,
 - (5) Through a life completely devoted to Him.
 - (6) May He give each of us His grace to do so. Amen.

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