
Words of Truth

The Unchanging Standard

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In 2002, medical research said that coffee was bad for you (<http://www.webmd.com/mental-health/news/20020801/is-caffeine-bad-for-your-heart>). In 2011, medical research said that coffee is good for you (<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/apr/10/health/la-he-coffee-heart-disease-20110410>). Tomorrow, someone might produce a new study that says something different about coffee. Some say that sun exposure is good for you (http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/pr/PR_display.asp?prID=08-01). Other research says the opposite (<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-south/stay-out-of-sun-doctor-warns-490183/>). Tax laws, traffic laws, and all other types of laws (local, state, federal, and international) change often.

We live in a world full of changes. People cannot make their minds up. Have you ever stood in a grocery line and watched how many people opt not to buy things they put on the belt? When we look back at the changes we've seen in society in our lifetimes, there are countless changes that have occurred. The moral decay around us is horrific. With all of these changes we see, we should be grateful that we have an unchanging God.

Our God Is An Unchanging God

God does not lie (Numbers 23:19 and Titus 1:2). Knowing that, we can be confident that He is unchanging because He tells us that He does not change. Notice the following Scriptures: *"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed... Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever... Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"* (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, and James 1:17).

Living in this world, we have become accustomed to people not keeping their promises. We are used to people changing their minds. Therefore, it is important for us to realize that God does not change. God has made us a promise. We have hope through His promise of eternal life to those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9 and I John 2:25).

Our unchanging God desires us to be saved (I Timothy 2:4, Titus 2:11-14, and II Peter 3:9). His efforts have been extensive. When mankind became so evil that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was continually evil (Genesis 6:5-7), God saved eight people (Genesis 6:8-22). From that point forward, mankind has continually tested God's patience. Yet, we see that God hasn't changed. Over and over again God has done all that He can to provide our means of salvation. This included sending His only begotten Son into the world to die for the remission of our sins (Matthew 20:28, Matthew 26:28, and Romans 5:6-10).

In addition to the life of His only begotten Son, God has also sent His word into the entire world so that we can be saved (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:47, and Colossians 1:23). Herein we have another evidence of our unchanging God. Just think about this for a moment. Most people would want everyone to be saved. However, how many of them would change their minds after those people turned on them just for wanting them to be saved? Thanks be to God that He won't change His mind. Thanks be to God that He won't change His word either.

God's Word Is The Unchanging Standard

"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven... Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever... Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever... Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away... Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (Psalms 119:89, Psalms 119:152, Psalms 119:160, Matthew 24:35, and I Peter 1:23-25).

Our salvation is dependent on the word of God (John 6:63). Therefore, it is a great blessing to know His word is not going to change. We don't have to worry about God coming up with new qualifiers and stipulations on things He has already said. In fact, God wants there to be no additions or subtractions to His law (Revelation 22:18-19).

Standards that do not change make life a lot easier. Have you ever had a job where the policies kept changing? Sometimes businesses have so many policy changes that the workers are always confused about what that employer expects out of them. We should be thankful that the standard of our faith will never change. The once delivered faith (Jude 3) is final. Everything from God's plan of salvation to how to worship Him is settled. We have the final law that will judge us on the Judgment Day (John 12:48).

The unchanging standard of God's word also aids us in identifying false teachers and exposing false doctrines. We hold fast to the pattern of sound words (II Timothy 1:13) while rejecting any "other" doctrine (Galatians 1:6-10 and I Timothy 1:3-7). We know that any new idea that creeps up is not God's idea. We know that we are safe as long as we live by every word of God (Luke 4:4) while rejecting every word of man (Ephesians 4:14 and Colossians 2:8).

Conclusion

The price of a gallon of gas, a loaf of bread, electricity, and just about everything else will change often. The ideas of our government, medical professionals, educators, scientists, etc. will change often. When you watch the news, what they may report as fact often changes by the next newscast. The list of the ever-changing ways of men is a long one. Therefore, let's be thankful for our unchanging God. God is eternal (Psalms 90:2). His word is sure (Psalms 19:7). God is our unchanging standard (Hebrews 6:13-20).