
Words of Truth

Hebrews 13:8

By: Brian A. Yeager

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). Earlier in this epistle this was written concerning Jesus: “And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail” (Hebrews 1:7-12).

There are some obvious things Hebrews 13:8 is not talking about. Jesus has not always been the same in some ways. For example, He once left Heaven and came to Earth in the flesh (Luke 1:31-35, John 1:1-16, Romans 1:3, and Philippians 2:4-11). While on Earth He was transfigured (Mark 9:2-13). He lived in the flesh, died, was buried, rose from the dead, ascended back into Heaven, and later appeared to Paul (Luke 23:18-24:51 and I Corinthians 15:1-9). Those are clearly times wherein things were not always the same with Jesus.

The authority of Christ is something that has changed and will change again in the future. Prior to Jesus ascending into Heaven we read: *“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:16-20).* Right now, Jesus still has all authority in Heaven and Earth (Ephesians 1:19-23, Colossians 1:12-20, and I Peter 3:18-22). However, notice this: *“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (I Corinthians 15:24-28).*

The identity of Christ is what has not and will not change. When Jesus came in the flesh He did not cease to be who He is. Notice: *“I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen”* (Romans 9:1-5). While Jesus was on earth He said: *“I and my Father are one”* (John 10:30). The Jews understood what that meant: *“Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God”* (John 10:31-33).

The point is not to be thought of in the physical sense. The point was to draw the mind of the reader to the fact that Jesus is, was, and always will be Himself. The Holy Spirit used this point when He had John write to the seven churches of Asia: *“John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty”* (Revelation 1:4-8).

Under the Law and the prophets a similar point was made. Malachi wrote: *“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed”* (Malachi 3:6). God made a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 22:1-18). God keeps His word (Numbers 23:19, I Samuel 15:29, Titus 1:1-3, Hebrews 6:13-20). Therefore, He did not consume Israel even when they were a grave disappointment. That point would apply the same way with Jesus. Jesus is not going to go back on His covenant with His faithful followers. His promise, to the faithful, is eternal life (I John 2:3-25).

In the context of this Hebrew epistle there is a point that is building from this statement. That point is what we will be addressing in our next article. To state it simply for now, these Jewish Christians needed to realize that Jesus isn't changing so they needed to guard themselves against any changes in doctrines that would come about (Hebrews 13:9). When the lawmaker says He is not changing, one should understand that the law is not going to change either.