

## ***How to Face a Rapidly Changing World - Hebrews 13:8*** **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

### **Notes from the Sermon**

We live in a rapidly changing world. Sometimes rapid change can be good, and at other times it can bring heartache. But it almost always brings anxiety. As we begin 2024, there are troubling forecasts of what's to come. How will the war in Israel conclude? Will China invade Taiwan? What about the war in Ukraine? What will the economy be like? Will interest rates come down? Will there be another pandemic? Who will win the election? And can the Cardinals senior citizen starting pitchers hold up for 162 games? Will Taylor Swift dump Travis Kelce if the Chiefs don't win the super bowl? On a more personal level, will my family and I remain healthy this year? Is my job secure? Are my relationships secure?

There is massive change all around us every year. We fret and we worry about what will change and yet at the start of every year people all over the world make resolutions to do what? ...To change. To change something about themselves. So how can we face the uncertainty in such a rapidly changing world with peace, joy and confidence? How can we face the new year without fear? In uncertain times we long for stability. And scripture tells us the only completely stable thing in our world is Jesus. Only Jesus.

A Dutch theologian named Herman Bavinck notes the great importance of our Lord's unchangeableness. He said, "The doctrine of God's immutability is of the highest importance for religion. The contrast between 'being' and 'becoming' marks the difference between the Creator and the creature. Every creature is continually becoming. It is changeable, constantly striving (think new year's resolutions), seeks rest and satisfaction, and finds this rest in God, in him alone, for only He is pure 'being' and no 'becoming'".

Hebrews 13:8 says "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever." This is a seemingly simple verse, but there is a lot packed into it. First let's look at the concept of time that is an obvious and important element of this passage. We need to understand that time is part of God's creation. A concept He created for our good and His glory. God is not bound by or restricted by time. Yet He uses time and dates throughout the scriptures to demonstrate His sovereignty and His command of history and the events of mankind down through the ages. He existed before time began and will continue to exist into eternity.

What does Hebrews 13:8 mean that Jesus is the "same"? It is saying He is unchanged or immutable. How so?

Jesus is the same in His Being. That is to say He has never changed who He is. His word tells us Jesus is Prophet (Luke 13:33, Acts 3:22 and Deuteronomy 18:15), Priest (Hebrews 3:1, John 17:9 and Matthew 12:6) and King (Matthew 2:2, Matthew 12:41 and Revelation 17:14)!

Jesus is the same in His Purpose and Doctrine. Jesus' purpose is to provide salvation for sinful men. And the doctrine of salvation is the same today, and as real today, as it was to Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. It comes to men when they receive it by faith (Eph. 2: 8-9)

Jesus is the same in His Methods. Just as in the first century, Jesus reaches the hearts of men and women through the Holy Spirit, through the faithful preaching of the Gospel and through the sincere prayers of believers.

Jesus is the same in His Love. The unconditional love that sent Jesus to the cross is directed at you and me. The infinite, almighty creator King of the universe is also a loving, personal God who desires a deep personal relationship with you. He is trustworthy to remain unchanged regardless of what changes might come this week, this month, this year and into eternity. So it begs the question... Do you know Him?

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 68	Psalm 69	Psalm 70	Psalm 71	Psalm 72	Psalm 73	Psalm 74

Reading from this past week: Hebrews 13

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Matthew 28

### **Family Worship**

Song - *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

<https://youtu.be/jJRXpeZkzV0?si=a7B5VZeLy65BCj6s>

#### Gospel Project

Unit: The Church Begins

Story: The Disciples Replaced Judas

Big Picture Question: How does the Holy Spirit help Christians?

Answer: The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory

Scripture: Acts 1

#### New City Catechism

Question #2: What is God?

Answer: God is the creator of everyone and everything.

Verse: Psalm 86:8-15

#### Scripture

Hebrews 13:8

1. What causes you to be anxious about the future?
2. How much control do you have over your future? Who does? (Your boss? Teacher? Spouse?)
3. How can you lean more on our unchangeable God in this fast-changing world?

#### Prayer

\*Pray that you, your family, and your church would find great trust and hope in the unchanging nature of God in our rapidly changing world.

\*Pray for those who have been affected by the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, and pray for peace.