

THE UNCHANGING CHRIST

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today,
and for ever." (Heb. 13:8)

INTRODUCTION

I. The Same in His Glorious Person (Heb. 1:2-3)

A. The Son of God

God speaking to us, vs. 2

The brightness of God's glory, v. 3.

The express image of God's person, v. 3

and also Col. 1:15, "He is the image
of the invisible God, the first-born over all crea-
tion."

B. The Creator of all things.

Col. 1:16, "By him were all things created:
things in heaven and on earth, visible and
invisible."

Jn. 1:1-3, "Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made."
Yet, although he was the creator, he was rejected by
his own people, (Jn. 1:11).

He created everything that man sees and enjoys,
and much that mankind cannot see with his physical
eyes, even with the best technology, from this
planet.

He is the omniscient Designer behind all the
grand design of the universe.
He balances the orb of heaven;
he "meted out heaven with a span, and comprehended
the dust of the earth in a measure (Isa. 40:12).
He is the omnipotent Creator behind all creation.
He made every region of earth, with all things
therein, from the burning equator to the icy poles,
from the tropical jungles to the highest mountains.

He is the Lawmaker behind all law.
He made the whole universe a magnificent unity,
order, harmony, and balance of cause and effect.

He is the great Lightgiver behind all light.
He sent out the first ray of light across the
uncharted darkness like some flaming archangel with
garments afire.

He set the sun in his tabernacle in the heavens;
he made the smallest atom and the largest galaxy of
stars and the black holes of deep space.
He regulates the march of seasons, and he harmonizes
the tides with lunar cycles.
He designed the wings of the hummingbird,
and he gave the skill to the spider who spins his
draperies across the windows.

"For by him were all things created....

He is before all things, and
by him all things stick together" (Col. 1:16).

And he is the same today as he was then in his
matchless creative work!

And he will be the same forever and ever!

II. He is the same in his Redeeming Power.

Heb. 7:25, "Therefore he is able to save
completely (or forever) those who come to God
through him, because he always lives to intercede
for them."

A. Notice his remarkable ABILITY to save.

The key words here are: "He is ABLE."

No sinner is beyond his ability to reach and save.
No one can say, "I am too great a sinner; he can't
save me," as a man once told me in a park in
Birmingham, Ala.

B. Notice the Condition of this salvation:
"those who come." The only way we can find God is
to COME to Him in simple faith; and the only way we
can come to God is THROUGH JESUS.

If you NEGLECT TO COME, there is NO ESCAPE,

Heb. 2:3. TO NEGLECT TO COME IS TO REJECT HIM.

C. Notice the SECURITY of this salvation.

It is to the uttermost, completely, for ever.

If you really come to him in genuine faith,
and if you really have an experience of salvation,
then you are saved not just for a time but for ever.
The basis of this security is not in our "holding
out to the end," but in our Savior's holding on to
us with with eternal living intercession for us,
as we read in the last part of Heb. 7:25: "because
he always lives to intercede for us."

III. Christ is unchanging in His Constant Presence.

Heb. 13:5, "I will never leave you," (quoted from Ps. 118:6).

A. We can depend on God's constant presence in our life. We are sure that we are not alone in this great universe, but at the heart of the world there is a good and just God who is always with us. Our faith in him assures us that life has meaning and purpose.

This faith convinces us that we as human beings are something more than puppets dangling at the end of wires manipulated by some capricious unseen power. We believe that the Cross of Jesus Christ is no mere incident or accident of history, but the revelation of what is deepest in the universe. We know that Emmanuel who came to be with us that first Christmas is with us today and that he will never leave us nor forsake us.

B. The blessings of his presence.

1. Constant rejoicing, as Paul in Philipians.

2. Victory over temptation.

I Cor. 10:13, "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

3. Power for service.

Mt. 28:20, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."

The experience of Samson shows clearly how the presence of God is associated with power. When he no longer enjoyed the fellowship and presence of the spirit, he tried to rise up and fight the battle as before, but the Bible tells us that, "he knew not that the Lord had departed from him," and he met disaster.

CONCLUSION: Men's beliefs about Jesus Christ may change from age to age; yet HE does not change. Jesus is God's Word to man. God's forgiveness does not fluctuate. His mercy is ever sure. The sacrifice of Christ can never be improved. His intercession abides forever. The same Jesus who lived on earth for a few years, suffered and died, and who was worshipped by his followers as Lord during his lifetime and during the Apostolic Age immediately following, is the same Jesus whom we worship today as our only Savior and Lord. No one can compare with Him.

Early in the morning of the fifteenth of April, 1865, in a little room in a house on Tenth Street in Washington, Edwin Stanton, the Secretary of War, rose from the bedside where he had been kneeling, pulled down the blind at the window to shut out the bright spring sunlight, and then, turning to look at the still form on the bed, said, "Now he belongs to the ages."

That is the briefest—and perhaps the best—epitaph of Abraham Lincoln.

Yet it is only RELATIVELY true that Lincoln and the other great figures of history belong to the ages. The ONLY ONE who REALLY belongs to the ages is the one who is the Rock of Ages, the Alpha and the Omega, and to whom, the AGES BELONG.

"Who shall declare his generation?" (Acts 8:33).

Jesus Christ has no age and no epoch.

His personality bridges the ages.

He does not change from generation to generation or from century to century, or from country to country, or from culture to culture.

He is unchanging in his divine person and works, and in his constant presence.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Our challenge today is to be, by his grace, just as constant and faithful in our trust and obedience to Him as He is to us.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Seven Spgs. Bay. Chapel, NPR, 7-23-89 P.M.
Map. Hts, Bay Ch. Apr. 29, '90, p.m. s.v.c.