

"Our Changeless God!"

Psalm 102; 1 Samuel 15
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- One thing is certain in life, and that is, LIFE CHANGES!
- Changes in our lives
 - Changes in technology
 - Changes due to the COVID pandemic which continue to influence our lives.
 - Changes with retirement

"Our Changeless God!"

A. Our God does NOT change!

1. **Does not mean that God is "out of date" , but fully contemporary!**
2. **God, in His essential being, does not change**
 - Psalm 102:23-24-- *"He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days. I said, 'O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations."*
 - Psalm 102:25-26-- *"Of old, You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed."*
 - Psalm 102:27-- *"But You are the same, and Your years will have no end"*
 - Malachi 3:6-- *"For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."*
 - James 1:17-- *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shadow of turning."*
3. **We change in three different ways:**
 - a. From better to worse
 - b. From worse to better
 - c. From immaturity to maturity
4. **God cannot change in the ways we do.**
 - James 1:13-- *"God cannot be tempted with evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."*

B. Areas where God cannot change

1. God's **Being** does not change.
 - Psalm 93:2-- *"Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting."*
 - 1 Timothy 6:16-- *"Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen."*
2. God's **Character** does not change
 - Exodus 34:5-7-- *"Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there (that is, with Moses) and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and fourth generation.'"*

- Exodus 34:8 -- *"So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped."*

3. God's **Purposes** do not change

a. **Saul and God's unchanging purposes**

- 1 Samuel 15:2-3-- *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. Kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"*
- 1 Samuel 15:7-9-- *"attacked the Amalekites from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed."*
- 1 Samuel 15:23--*"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."*
- 1 Samuel 15:24-28-- *"Then Saul said to Samuel, 'I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.' But Samuel said to Saul, 'I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.' And as Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and tore it. So Samuel said to him, 'The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man that He should relent.'"*

b. **Balaam's testimony to God's immutability**

- Numbers 23:19-- *"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor the son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

c. **Our Salvation is guaranteed by God's changelessness**

- Hebrews 6:17-- *"Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath."*
- 2 Timothy 1:12-- *"... for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."*

d. **Passages where it appears that God changes His mind?**

- Jonah 3:10-- *"Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that he had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it."*

e. **The difference between the people of Nineveh and Saul**

- 1 Samuel 15:22-23-- *"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellions is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the Word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."*

4. God's **Word** does not change

- Isaiah 40:6-8-- *"All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever!"*
- Psalm 119:89-- *"Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven."*
- Psalm 119:152-- *Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever."*

C. Because God does not change, we have....

1. **A Supreme Object of Worship**
2. **Absolute Assurance of our Salvation!**
3. **Comfort in God's Presence.**
4. **Confidence in God's Word.**
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20-- *"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him, Amen, to the glory of God through us."*
5. **Certainty in our Uncertain World**