

Sermon ~ Sunday, December 6, 2020 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: Numbers 23: 19; I Samuel 15: 29; Malachi 3: 6; Hebrews 1: 10-12 and James 1: 17

Title: "GOD, Changes Not!"

Changes, Changes, Changes! We may not like *changes*, but *changes* for us are inevitable. Aren't you glad, you can't wear the same clothes, you once did? Say, you are a 'conservative': one who conserves and oppose, "revolution for the hell of it" (1960's) ...
"Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know" ...

The older we get, we learn it's true, "*change* can not be stopped!" The older you get, everything goes faster—so is the thinking; we get tired quick; what wouldn't hurt enough to stop us *then*, *now*, everything aches with pain.

Relationships *change*. Children grow up or grow down (you know, you taught them better); the job you once enjoyed is now boring and miserable; the hopes of re-tiring, has turned into the cries of help, and the looking for something to do, just to get away from it!

Foods we once relish, no longer appeal to you. Friends become your enemies. The fondest memories of the neighborhood you grew up in, is no more. The houses are gone, families gone, the hood is neighborless, its all over grown with dirty-dust, weeds-thistles and howling winds!

Change is everywhere. What lessons have you learned from this year, 2020???

One approach to *change* is, to embrace it? Another is, to *know GOD is unchanging!!!*

GOD, our GOD, is immutable... HE does not change and cannot be changed! HE forever remains the same! HE does not change in Nature! HIS *Character* nor HIS *purpose* ever change!
GOD, our GOD is Perfect, change is impossible!

I've bathed this week on this thought... I mediated on **The WORD of GOD... The HOLY SPIRIT** helped me to narrow these few **SCRIPTURES**, to share with us, in the midst of these *changing* times.

***Numbers 23: 19**, "**GOD** is not a man, that **HE** should lie, not a son of man, that **HE** should *change* (repent) **HIS** mind. Does **HE** speak and then not act? Does **HE** promise and not fulfill?"

This is Balaam utterance/prophecy to Balak the King, who wanted Balaam to *curse* the people of **GOD**. In verse 18, Balaam pointed out '*Priority*' to Balak, "Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me (that is, **GOD** told me to tell you). Point: We may try to see, only what we want to see, but, **GOD/HIS WORD** never *change*! Honor **GOD/HIS WORD**— "Rise up, *respect* **GOD/HIS WORD**, if we would be blessed by **HIM/HIS WORD**! You had better bring your mind to harmonize with **GOD'S/HIS WORD** than minimize or evade either **TRUTH**. You are hurting yourself and can never alter them. Take **GOD'S Way** and be at peace!

Hear. We must listen to **GOD/HIS WORD**. Hearken. We must believe and obey **GOD/HIS WORD!**

*I Samuel 15: 29, “And also **The STRENGTH (GOD)** of Israel will not lie nor *change* (repent): for **HE** is not a man, that **HE** should repent.”

When **GOD** reject Saul as King, it was final. It does not matter how he or we respond. Like Saul, we can lay the blame on the people. We can pretend that our objects were to make “sacrifices”, do something to **GOD**, for **GOD**; kneel together and worship **GOD**. Not realizing, how hard-hearted we become and is becoming. (this is the beginning of the *sin* unto death!)

*Malachi 3: 6, “For **I AM The LORD**, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”

What do we expect, when *social abuses* prevail? **GOD is The GOD** of Justice and Judgment. **HE** can be wearied, by saying “everyone who does evil is good in the sight of **The LORD**, and **HE** delights in them, or, Where is **The GOD of Justice?**” (Malachi 2: 17)
[Saying you love **GOD**, but your heart is far from **HIM!** Adulterous. Perjurious. Extortioners. Oppressive.

This is by people who “do not fear **GOD?**” Thinking **GOD** is like themselves. That **HE** closes **HIS Eyes** to *sin* and will not judge their breaking **HIS Laws**. “For **I AM The LORD**, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed... *Since GOD* does not change, then, “confess your *sin*, and **HE** is faithful and just to forgive our *sin* and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (I John 1: 9)

*Hebrew 1: 10-12, “**YOU, LORD**, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of **YOUR Hands**. They will perish, but **YOU** remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak **YOU** will fold them up, And they will be *changed*. But **YOU** are the same, And **YOUR** years will not fail.”

Quoting Psalms 102: 25-27, the writer of Hebrews declares **JESUS, The CHRIST** (*our LORD* and **SAVIOR**, *better*, than Angels!!!) Why? 1.) **HE, JESUS, The CHRIST** is Eternal, while Angels had a beginning. 2.) **HE, JESUS, The CHRIST**, created the world, but they (Angels) were created. 3.) Angels are subject to *change*, as the Heaven and the earth. BUT **JESUS, The CHRIST**, is **The Changeless ONE**.

JESUS, The CHRIST, “... is **The Captian** of our salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Hebrews 2: 10) That is, because **HE changes not**, **HE** is our “file-leader.” The Church follows its **LEADER, JESUS CHRIST**, in single file through this world of ‘*the cross*’ and ‘*the grave*’ onto ‘*the glory*.’

No Cross, No Crown! No Crown of suffering *change* here, No Glory there! (**Heavenly JOY!**)

I encourage you, **“GOD, Changes Not!”**

Sis. Mary Jane “Jennie” Bain Wilson, born November 13, 1856 and died, September 3, 1913, was born on a farm at Cleveland, IN. Her father died in her infancy. At the age of 4 years old, she suffered the attack of “spinal meningitis”, confining her to a wheel-chair and bed, preventing her from attending school and having to learn from home. She was taught poetry, learned music to loved **GOD**; she confessed **JESUS** as **LORD**, was saved and baptized at 25 years old. Among the many Hymns she wrote and loved is,

“Hold to GOD’S Unchanging Hand”

Time is filled with swift transition, Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
Build your hopes on things eternal, **Hold to GOD’S Unchanging Hand!**

Trust in **HIM WHO** will not leave you, Whatsoever years may bring,
If by earthly friends forsaken, Still more closely to **HIM** cling!

Covet not this world vain riches, That so rapidly decay,
Seek to gain the heav’nly treasures, They will never pass away!

When your journey is completed, If to **GOD** you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in glory, Your enraptured soul will view!

Hold to HIS Hand! To GOD’S Unchanging Hand!

Hold to HIS Hand! To GOD’S Unchanging Hand!

Build your hopes on things eternal, **Hold to GOD’S Unchanging Hand!**

Amen.

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