

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

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“For I am the Lord, I change not”

Malachi 3:6

Dear beloved in Christ, blessed with hope and persuaded of sins forgiven and the promise of eternal life: May our pure minds be stirred to consider the contrast between the realm of this temporal world in which we are born into by nature and that spiritual kingdom which we have been reborn into by the operation of free and sovereign grace.

I was pondering some thoughts yesterday regarding what on this earth does not change? I began a mental list of some things that continually change as determined by our Almighty and sovereign Lord beyond any control of mortal man (although the nature of the natural born creature shall NEVER change apart from the operation of free and sovereign grace).

- A. Our bodies are continually changing as the cell structure goes through its progressive changes day by day. The aging process begins at physical birth and continues till which time it wears out and in Gods determined time, ceases to continue as a living breathing human creature and the grave awaits its remains.*
- B. Our families change as our children mature and venture out from our homes to begin their own lives as Mothers and Fathers. The umbrella of the parents’ protection and provision is no longer provided. Our offspring go their various ways, often away from their upbringing and spiritual convictions and priorities of the Parent(s).*
- C. The things of creation that we observe over time are continually changing, the seasons of Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring all bring changes in creation. As the Suns angle is changed from the earths orbital and rotation changes.*
- D. Relationships change (more and more of late) as more families are split due to divorce from a lack of marital commitment. Sadly to report, approximately 60%*

of babies born today are born to an unwed mother. Those that are of our own flesh and blood reject us because of our love and experience of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Is it not a true fact that “a man’s greatest foes shall be those of his own household?”

- E. As Christians, think about how much you have CHANGED in your doctrinal understanding of the scriptures since you first picked up that precious book to read and study. I think this is one area we (I) am so quick to forget as God enables me to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ my redeemer. Who has arrived to where we are in wisdom and understanding in the truth that our God has not caused? What have we understood as truth that we had not received of God?*
- F. Church Assemblies change, look at the heritage of some of our Old Baptist assemblies, many established in the early and mid 1800s, yet NONE have any members that are present when the local church was established(maybe some less than 100 years ago). There is an evolution (a process of change) of Gods people as the generations continue. We are ONLY as important as God enables as we live and exist in our determined time and generation as Gods children.*
- G. In the creatures ever changing existence as a mortal, how important are we? How many can recall the name of your great, great, Grandfather? Where was he from ? Was he a believer??? Do you know the grave location of your great, great, grandfather? We are as the flower of the field that fadeth away. Oh, yes dear Brethren, we have the voices of those which “still speaketh” by the means of the written word. Beebe, Leland, Philpot, and numerous others such as the old hymn writers whose works have been preserved for our historical reading and singing. But on the most part thousands of believers from sea to sea have come and gone never to be remembered again by mortal man.*

*Nevertheless, in spite of all these ever-changing aspects of mortal life, our God shall NEVER forget them which are HIS, with our God “**in whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning**” (James 1:17). “**for He hath said, I will NEVER leave thee, nor forsake thee**” (Hebrews 13:5). “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever**” (Hebrews 13:8).*

*For our Lord’s precious and preserved **WORD is “forever settled in heaven.”** The divine **promises** of God to his elect heirs of sovereign, free and irresistible grace shall stand **forever**. That which He has promised shall come to pass as he fulfills His determined purpose in ALL THINGS for the praise of His glory.*

And so shall it be to those of which our God has been pleased to pass over with his loving mercies and saving grace. The judgment and wrath of God shall be demonstrated in

that last and final day among the goats and tares which have been determined before the earth knew its round.

*Oh! Dear ones; how temporal, how mortal, how prone we are to wander from the God we love!! Yet, if it were not by the Almighty's **keeping power and sovereign love**, we would have **NO HOPE !!***

*May we be caused to rejoice that even while we be "fickled" in our consistency to walk in obedience before our precious Saviour, he continually summons us as a wandering Lamb caught in the thicket of life's pitfalls and waywardness to retrieve us from sin and despair. "**For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth,**" and shall correct our fleshly meanderings that holiness shall be manifested as the evidence of Christ loving kindness and everlasting mercies. Being blessed with that glorious hope "**he which hath begun that good work in you shall PERFORM IT until the day of Jesus Christ**". "**For it is Christ which worketh in you to both WILL and to DO of his good pleasure.**" To HIM be the glory, honor and eternal praise is my weak and beggarly desire and effort.*

*Respectfully submitted,
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