

Tuesday**God’s Changeless Character**

- **1 John 4:8** “God is love” = not just loving / essential **nature**
 - Nature of unselfish love makes Him holy,
 - completely separated from sin = God cannot sin.
 - Love does no harm. His **nature** of love = wellspring of His **character** of light.
- **1 John 1:5** “God is light” = His **character** is righteous—
 - He’s morally perfect = causes His light to be eternally bright
 - **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.
 - God’s light has no variation of rising or setting, and it is never eclipsed by His turning away from righteousness

Malachi 3:6 ^AFor I am the LORD, I do not change;

- GOD = Love/righteous = context of verse proves
 - God’s moral changelessness/ always MORALLY perfect
 - God’s character = unchangeable
 - Rest of vs = indicates God can/does change **relationally**

Malachi 3:6 ^BTherefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Malachi 3:7 Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. **Return to Me, and I will return to you,**” Says the LORD of host....

ABSG QUOTE: So, God does enter into **back-and-forth relationships** with His creation, but through all such back-and-forth relationships, and through everything else, God’s character is constant. This is likewise affirmed in James 1:17, which proclaims that all good and perfect figts come from God; with whom there is no variation. God is not the source of evil ...**continue...**

the Bible **consistently teaches that God is morally changeless.** Yet, God can and does enter into real relationship with creatures, to whom God responds, but always with love and justice. **UNQUOTE**

2 Timothy 2:11–13 “This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself”

- **What does Paul mean? We all slip in faith--have to repent**
- But = faithlessness Paul refers to = results in apostasy.
- **Matthew 10:22** Christ said, “he who endures to the end will be saved”
- An apostate doesn’t endure to end / denies Christ by turning their back on Him = sometimes because = love of the world,
 - often because of wrong teaching or tribulation.
- God consistently remains faithful to His Word = cannot deny Himself
 - saves those who believe = and = walk in covenant relationship w/Him
 - condemns those who refuse a covenant relationship w/Him (**John 3:16, 18**).

Titus 1:1–2 ¹Paul...according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,
²in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

Hebrew 6:17 = Speak of God’s promise / His oath = His Word is sure/unchangeable

Hebrews 6:18 that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

- God’s promise/oath are immutable/unchangeable

- Greek term was used of a legal will, which was unchangeable by anyone but the maker of the will

Hebrews 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul

ABSG QUOTE: God cannot deny Himself; God never lies; and God’s promises are unbreakable. We can be confident that the God of the Bible is the same God who (in Christ) willingly gave Himself for us on the cross. He is a God who can be trusted, without reservation, and we can have confidence and hope for the future because, as **Hebrews 13:8** puts it, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”

UNQUOTE

How can you learn to trust in the goodness of God even when things have gone really badly in your life?

What does the image of God on the cross do to help you learn to trust in His goodness?