

## **The Same: God of Truth**

### **Heb. 13:8**

Slide 1 - Cover Slide

Slide 2 - Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same...

- Anchor point

Slide 3 - THE SAME

- Not a negative - consistent, dependable, reliable, stable, secure...
- Goodness - Anything He does is good, He is the source of all good
- Forgiveness - No matter what, God's heart is to make a way for us to have relationship with Him. We know how we will be received
- Justice - lawful, righteous, fair - right
  - What about injustice?
    - Delay actually due to God's patience - trying to draw us to repentance and relationship
    - Temporal vs. eternal

Slide 4 - God of Truth

- All connected - You will hear similar ideas repeated
  - Often connected to mercy in Psalms
  - Tied with His right-ness (justice)
- Can't oversimplify. Can't put OUR understanding or experience on them
  - NOT MY TRUTH

Slide 5 - Genuineness - God is Real

- Always been there, always will be
- "In a world in which so much is artificial, our God is real" (Erickson, 261)

Slide 6 - Jeremiah 10:10a

- Compared to idols made by human hands
  - v. 8 - Those who don't fear God are "stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood!"

Slide 7 - 1 John 5:20

Slide 8 - John 17:3

- Prayer of Jesus for us
- 1 Thes 1:9 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

Slide 9 - Foundational Principle

- Know He has real power and authority
- Can trust in His other attributes
- Someone to hear our prayers - Elijah and the prophets of Baal

Slide 10 - Veracity - God tells the Truth

- God represents things as they really are; tells the truth
- What God says is accurate
- More-so - He does not/will not/cannot lie. It is contrary to His nature

Slide 11 - John 17:17

- Prayer of Jesus for us

Slide 12 - 1 Sam 15:29

Slide 13 - Titus 1:2

- Hebrews 6:18 - "it is impossible for God to lie"
- Means we can trust in His words
- Follow His commands with joy

Slide 14 - Tell the truth

Slide 15 - Zechariah 8:16-17

Slide 16 - 2 Cor 4:2

Slide 17 - Prov. 12:22

Slide 18 - Faithfulness - God Proves True

- Keeps all His promises
- Why people who don't know anything about the Bible can still quote some proverbs without knowing they are Proverbs or preach the "Golden rule"
  - Truth works - they recognize it leads to the best life

Slide 19 - Num 23:19b

Slide 20 - 1 Thess 5:24

Slide 21 - Isaiah 55:11

Slide 22-23 - 2 Cor 1:18-22

- Yes and Amen
- 1 Cor 1:9 - God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Slide 24 - Deuteronomy 18:21-22

- Converse follows - if it doesn't come true, wasn't from God

Slide 25 - PROPHECY FULFILLED

- Approx. 2,500 prophecies in Scripture, about 2,000 of which have already been fulfilled to the letter
- Prophecy examples

Slide 26 - Promises Kept

- Abraham - Isaac, promised land, descendants
  - God blessed his descendants, all peoples on earth have been blessed through them
  - Genesis 12:2-3 - "make of you a great nation", in you "all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
  - Genesis 15:5-6 - offspring greater than the number of stars in the sky
  - Genesis 18:18-19 - "all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him"
  - Deuteronomy 1:10-11; Joshua 24:2-3 - talk about the fulfillment
- Joseph - ruler, family would bow to him
- David
  - 2 Samuel 7:12-13 - God would establish his son's kingdom and he would build the temple of God. Throne of David would be established forever.
- Gen 3:15 - first promise of a Redeemer - may have seemed like it took a long time, but it sure proved true
  - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Slide 27 - Keep your word

Slide 28 - Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

- Keep promises to God

Slide 29 - Matthew 5:37

Slide 30 - Then why hasn't...?

- It is us, not God, who was mistaken - 1 Peter 2:24 - "by his wounds we are healed" is a spiritual healing - healing from sin
- Frame promises in eternity, the bigger picture - Jeremiah 29:11 for example
- Can't see the full picture - Joseph - enslaved, imprisoned...
- We live in an in-between, a "Now, but not yet" - parable of the mustard seed - It's small now, but it's planted, and it's going to be the biggest thing in the garden.
- Satan is still out there doing nefarious things. Our world is still broken. Broken people will still hurt us.
  - It's a war, and this is like an invasion. The war is won, but we're still fighting skirmishes - dealing with insurgents. They didn't all get the memo to surrender
- There will be hardship - 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14
- BUT all these things will absolutely come in full when we enter eternity - 1 Corinthians 13:12
- God acts and empowers AS HE WILLS - 1 John 5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- Why? Because the point is to show HIS greatness
  - Power when we need it - when I'm weak, He is strong

Slide 31 - What are we doing with this?

- Genuineness - confident He is real; hears our prayers
- Veracity - Trust His words; tell the truth
- Faithfulness - keeps His promises
- Psalm 31:5 - Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
  - "Lord God of truth" - Psalmist can confidently commit his spirit to God, his redeemer, because God is true

Slide 32 - Promise of Salvation

- The most important promise we cannot afford to misunderstand: The promise of salvation
- There will always be an open offer of salvation despite our failings
- Promise given as early as Gen 3:15
- Fulfilled despite Israel's rejection of God
- Your end of the promise - faith in Christ - John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1
- Also means God's promise of judgement is true

Slide 33 - Matthew 25:46

- Jesus on the final judgement - separating righteous from the unrighteous

Slide 34 - Psalm 40:10

- proclaim/display His truth

Slide 35 - Prayer is available