

I.VII GOD DOES NOT CHANGE (IMMUTABILITY): Malachi 3:6 - Shepherd School

I. OPENING RAYER: All.

III. SERMON:

GOD DOES NOT CHANGE (IMMUTABILITY): Malachi 3:6

INTRODUCTION.

"23 Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.'" **Jeremiah 9:23-25**

Q. Why do you need to know, understand, and apply the Perfections of God?

A1. Because it is God's delight to be known and loved and glorified, and therefore it will lead to your delight. The more you know and love and glorify the Lord, the more happy you will be.

A2. Because God says the way to know Him is to labor to comprehend His perfections (attributes) and actions as they are revealed in the Scriptures.

Therefore, let us draw our attention to one of the perfections of God tonight—namely, God's Immutability.

Turn in your Bibles with me to **Malachi 3:6**. As you find your place there, let me say these few words of clarification by way of introduction. **Q.** What is immutability?

FRANCIS TURRETIN:

"Immutability is an incommunicable attribute of God by which is denied of him not only all change, but also all possibility of change, as much with respect to existence as to will."

— **Turretin, Francis. Institutes of Elenctic Theology, Volume 1: First Through Tenth Topics (p. 440). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.**

Something that is *Mutable* means something that is *Changeable*; something that can or does change. Therefore something that is *Immutable* means something that is *Unchangeable*; something that cannot or does not change. So when we speak of the *Immutability* of God, it is the same as speaking of God's unchangeableness—God does not change.

CON(TEXT). **Malachi 3:6** "For I the LORD do not change."

Consider these two other texts:

- **James 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."
- **Hebrews 13:8** "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

DOCTRINE. *The triune God is unchanging in His essence and will, which is a terror to the wicked and great comfort to the saints.*

OUTLINE. There are two main truths we need to understand concerning the immutability of God.

I. God's essence does not change.

II. God's will does not change.

After we have considered the Scriptures on these points, I will make some application to close.

I. GOD'S ESSENCE DOES NOT CHANGE.

Let me point out two particular truths here:

I) God's Nature Does Not Change.

- **Exodus 3:14** "God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you."'"
- **Hebrews 1:10-12** "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

STEPHEN CHARNOCK: "God is without any new nature, new thought, new will, new purpose or new place. ... God is a necessary being; he is necessarily what he is, and therefore is unchangeably what he is." — **Stephen Charnock. *The Existence and Attributes of God*. Banner of Truth Trust. Vol. 1, Pg. 310.**

OBJECTION. But did not God the Son *change* when He became man?

ANSWER. TURRETIN: "God was not changed by the incarnation; the Word (logos) was made flesh, not by a conversion of the Word (tau logou) into flesh, but by an assumption of the flesh to the hypostasis of the Word (logou)." — **Turretin, Francis. Institutes of Elenctic Theology, Volume 1: First Through Tenth Topics (p. 442). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.**

II) God's Perfections Do Not Change.

- **Malachi 3:6** "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."
- **James 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

STEPHEN CHARNOCK: "The immutability of God is the foundation of all His perfections; for if He could change, He would not be perfect, since change implies either improvement or decay, neither of which can be attributed to the infinite God." — **Stephen Charnock. The Existence and Attributes of God. Banner of Truth Trust. Vol. 1, Pg. 312.**

Neither in His incommunicable nor in His communicable attributes will the Lord God ever change.

Incommunicable

- (i) The Lord God is perfectly self-existent and never will He be dependent (**Exodus 3:14, Psalm 90:2**).
- (ii) The Lord God is perfectly immutable and never will He be changeable (**Malachi 3:6, James 1:17**).
- (iii) The Lord God is perfectly infinite and never will He be limited (**1 Kings 8:27, Psalm 147:5**).
- (iv) The Lord God is perfectly simple and never will He be divided (**Deuteronomy 6:4**).
- (v) The Lord God is perfectly omnipresent and never will He be absent (**Psalm 139:7-10, Jeremiah 23:24**).
- (vi) The Lord God is perfectly omniscient and never will He be ignorant (**Psalm 147:5, Hebrews 4:13**).
- (vii) The Lord God is perfectly omnipotent and never will He be powerless (**Genesis 18:14, Matthew 19:26**).
- (viii) The Lord God is perfectly sovereign and never will He be subject to another (**Psalm 115:3, Daniel 4:35**).

Communicable

- (ix) The Lord God is perfectly holy and never will He be unholy (**Isaiah 6:3, 1**

Peter 1:15-16).

(x) The Lord God is perfectly righteous and never will He be unrighteous (**Psalm 11:7, Deuteronomy 32:4**).

(xi) The Lord God is perfectly just and never will He be unjust (**Psalm 89:14, Romans 2:11**).

(xii) The Lord God is perfectly loving and never will He be unloving (**1 John 4:8, Jeremiah 31:3**).

(xiii) The Lord God is perfectly merciful and never will He be unmerciful (**Ephesians 2:4-5, Psalm 103:8**).

(xiv) The Lord God is perfectly good and never will He be stingy (**Psalm 34:8, James 1:17**).

(xv) The Lord God is perfectly faithful and never will He be unfaithful (**Lamentations 3:22-23, 2 Timothy 2:13**).

(xvi) The Lord God is perfectly wise and never will He be foolish (**Romans 11:33-34, Job 12:13**).

(xvii) The Lord God is perfectly truthful and never will He be deceitful (**John 17:17, Titus 1:2**).

You have friends, and fellow church members, and even sometimes family members, who are here today and may completely change and be gone tomorrow. Men may defend you one day and attack you the next. Men may love you one year and hate you the following. Men may speak up for justice one month and fire at the innocent the next. Men may laugh with you one night and bite at you the following. Men are like a shifting sea, tossed to and fro and whipped away like an undertow. They are like mist driven away by the wind—always changing, never perfect until glorified.

***Not so with the Triune God! God is the Rock—immovable, unshakable, steadfast, unchangeable, immutable!** His justice will never miss; His holiness will be vindicated; His truth will win; His mercy will always be near; His love will hold and heal; His glory will be victorious; His kingdom is everlasting, and you one day will be right by His side, reigning with Him in eternal glory.*

SUMMARY: God's Nature does not change; God's Perfections do not change. God's Essence is immutable!

II. GOD'S WILL DOES NOT CHANGE.

Let me point out three particular truths here:

I) God's Decrees Do Not Change.

- **Psalm 33:11** "The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."
- **Isaiah 46:10** "[I am the LORD,] declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'"
- **Numbers 23:19** "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"
- **Isaiah 14:24** "The LORD of hosts has sworn: 'As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.'"

JOHN OWEN: "As God Himself is eternal and unchangeable, so are His decrees; they are the eternal and unchangeable products of His will, which cannot be altered without implying a change in God Himself." — **John Owen. A Display of Arminianism. Sovereign Grace Publishers. Pg. 24.**

Chapter 3, Paragraph 1 in the 1689 Confession:

"God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass;¹ yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein;² nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established;³ in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree.⁴"

Nothing has ever surprised God nor has anything happened that was not decreed by Him!

Christ is not plan B because Adam fell.

Christ is not plan C because Moses was unsuccessful.

Christ is not plan D because Israel failed.

Christ is plan A to Z.

It has always been and always will be Christ.

OBJECTION. But does not God say that He repents, such as in Noah's day and Saul's day?

ANSWER. WILHELMUS Á BRAKEL: "It is according to God's will that certain things will change. This, however, does not bring about a change in His will. When repentance is attributed to God, this does not suggest a change in God Himself, but rather a change in activity (in comparison to a prior moment) towards the objects of that activity, this change being according to His immutable decree. Whenever God issues a promise or a

threat which He does not carry out, this merely indicates that there was a contingency, either expressly stated or implied, which would determine whether or not the circumstances would take place. This fact was already known to God by virtue of His omniscience and His counsel." — **Brakel, Wilhelmus à. The Christian's Reasonable Service . Reformation Heritage Books. Kindle Edition.**

II) God's Moral Law Does Not Change.

- **Psalms 119:89** "Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens."
- **Matthew 5:17-20** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Because Christ came not to abolish but to fulfill the Law, those who relax it will be called least, and those who do it will be called great in Christ's kingdom.

OBJECTION. But did God not do away with the Temple system and Ceremonial Laws when the New Covenant was established in Christ?

ANSWER. The Temple system and Ceremonial Laws were not moral in the sense that they are based on God's nature and therefore morally binding on all men in all times and places, such as the 10 commandments. These Laws, under the Old Covenant, are what we call Purposive Laws; Laws which existed for a specific time and purpose, in order to prepare and point to Christ and His work as our Redeemer.

Brothers, you have an immutable moral guide for how to live so that you most glorify and enjoy the Lord with this one life He has given you.

The Moral Law of God—summarily comprehended in the Ten Commands and the Two Great Commandments—does not change because it is based on His attributes and actions, and our triune God does not change.

*If you want to be **wise**, labor to understand and apply the Ten Commandments.*

*If you want to be **blessed**, labor to understand and apply the Ten Commandments.*

*If you want to be **used by God**, labor to understand and apply the Ten Commandments.*

*If you want to be **a blessing to your wife and children, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren**, labor to understand and apply and teach the Ten Commandments.*

*If you want to be **a force for good in your city, state, and nation**, work hard to understand and apply and teach the Ten Commandments.*

III) God's Gospel Does Not Change.

- **Hebrews 13:8** "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
- **Galatians 1:8-9** "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed."

Chapter 7, Paragraph 3 in the 1689 Confession:

"This covenant is revealed in the gospel; first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation by the seed of the woman,⁵ and afterwards by farther steps, until the full discovery thereof was completed in the New Testament;⁶ and it is founded in that eternal covenant transaction that was between the Father and the Son about the redemption of the elect;⁷ and it is alone by the grace of this covenant that all the posterity of fallen Adam that ever were saved did obtain life and blessed immortality, man being now utterly incapable of acceptance with God upon those terms on which Adam stood in his state of innocency.⁸"

- The Adamic Covenant was instituted by God with Adam (and all mankind in him). It stipulated perfect works of obedience, threatened death, and promised eternal life.
- Adam failed. Thereafter the Lord promised the New Covenant in Christ in Genesis 3:16. Yet sin had ruined the world that God had made. Therefore God brought judgement on all flesh with the exception of Noah and his family, whom God saved by His grace.

After the flood waters subside,

- The Noahic Covenant was established by God with Noah (and all mankind in him). It obligates fruitful multiplication, threatens death, promises preservation, and is sealed by a sign.

Years later, the Lord began to establish the Kingdom of Israel, which would

prepare the way for the Christ that was promised in Genesis 3:15.

- The Lord established the Abrahamic Covenant to give the land of Canaan and further reveal aspects of the New Covenant in Christ.
- The Lord established the Mosaic Covenant to build upon and expand the Abrahamic Covenant, as well as foreshadow the New Covenant in Christ.
- The Lord established the Davidic Covenant to guard His worship, exemplify obedience, represent His people, and further reveal Christ in the New Covenant.
- The Lord *promised* the New Covenant would not be like the Old Covenant, because the New Covenant would grant regeneration, adoption, and complete forgiveness.
- The Lord *established* the New Covenant with Christ as Mediator and all those who believe in Him, granting to them regeneration, justification, adoption, sanctification, and glorification, as well as all the benefits and blessings which do accompany or flow from them.

God's gospel does not change, though it has been progressively revealed more and more until Christ!

Every sinner that has ever been saved has been saved in the exact same way—by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone—though some looked to Christ through the shadows of the promise and now we look to Christ in the substance of His finished work!

SUMMARY: God's decrees do not change; God's Moral Law does not change; and God's Gospel does not change! God's will is immutable!

APPLICATION.

I) See how terrible the immutability of God is to the wicked who will not repent.

– **Nahum 1:3-6**

"3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,
and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty.
His way is in whirlwind and storm,
and the clouds are the dust of his feet.
4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;
he dries up all the rivers;
Bashan and Carmel wither;
the bloom of Lebanon withers.
5 The mountains quake before him;

the hills melt;
the earth heaves before him,
the world and all who dwell in it.
6 Who can stand before his indignation?
Who can endure the heat of his anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire,
and the rocks are broken into pieces by him."

II) See how encouraging the immutability of God is to the righteous who cling to Christ by faith.

MANTON: "God's unchangeableness is the rock upon which our faith rests; for if He could change in His purpose or love, what assurance could we have of His promises?" — **Thomas Manton. *The Complete Works of Thomas Manton*. Maranatha Publications. Vol. 2, Pg. 167.**

(i) You have a High Priest in Christ Jesus who is an unchangeable priest forever!

Psalm 110:4

"The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

(ii) You have, in Christ, perfect righteousness, complete forgiveness, and secured promises yesterday, today, and forever!

Hebrews 13:8

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

(iii) You have a hope, in Christ, which is as unchangeable as your God!

Hebrews 6:16-18

"16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us."

EXHORTATION.

Labor to understand, apply, and teach the Immutability of God and let that lead you to stand in awe of our truly amazing God!

"23 Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the

mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.'" **Jeremiah 9:23-25**

OTHER TEXTS

Psalm 102:26

Hebrews 6:17

1 Samuel 15:29

III. SONG:

B r e a k (start back at 7:10pm)

IV. 1689 Confession: Ch 2. Par 1-3. (finish by 7:35pm)

V. DISCUSSION (finish by 8pm)

A Body of Divinity discussion

Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices discussion

Closing Prayer

SYLLABUS

 SHEPHERD SCHOOL - SEASON ONE (2025) - THE ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD

WEEK	Scripture	Book I <i>(read before)</i>	Book II <i>(read before)</i>	1689 Confession	Certificate Essays	Certificate Exposition
1 8/14	2 Timothy 2:1-6 Why Shepherd School + Overview					
2 8/21	Deuteronomy 18:15-22	A Body of Divinity Christ, The Mediator of the Covenant + Christ's Prophetic Office by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices A Word to the Reader, Introduction, Proof of the Point, By Presenting the Bait and Hiding the Hook by Thomas Brooks	Ch 8. Par 1-3		
3 8/28	Psalms 110:1-4	A Body of Divinity Christ's Priestly Office + Christ's Kingly Office by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Painting Sin with Virtue's Colors, By the Extenuating and Lessening of Sin, By Showing the Soul the Best Men's Sins by Thomas Brooks	Ch 8. Par 4-6	Short Essay on The Hypostatic Union	
4 9/4	Philippians 2:5-11	A Body of Divinity Christ's Humiliation in His Incarnation + Christ's Exaltation by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Presenting God to the Soul, By Persuading the Soul, By Making the Soul Bold by Thomas Brooks	Ch 8. Par 7-10		First Exposition Due
5 9/11	Galatians 3:10-14	A Body of Divinity Christ's The Redeemer by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Representing to the Soul the Outward Mercies, By Presenting to the Soul the Crosses, By Causing Saints to Compare Themselves by Thomas Brooks	Ch 11. Par 1-3		<i>*Certificate path will meet in the office during 1689 and book discussion this week to discuss sermons</i>
6 9/18	John 4:24 (Omnipresence) Psalm 147:5 (Omniscience)	A Body of Divinity The Omnipresence of God + The Omniscience of God by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Causing Saints to Compare Themselves, By Polluting the Souls Judgements, By leading Men to Choose Wicked Company by Thomas Brooks	Ch 11. Par 4-6		
7 9/25	Revelation 1:8 (Eternity) James 1:17 (Immutability)	A Body of Divinity The Eternity of God + The Immutability of God by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Presenting the World, By Presenting to the Soul the Dangers, By Presenting to the Soul the Difficulty by Thomas Brooks	Ch 2. Par 1-3		

Thus says the Lord, "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom. Let not the mighty man boast in his might. Let not the rich man boast in his riches. But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord. Jeremiah chapter 9:es 23- 25.

Why do you need to know, understand, and apply the perfections of God? That's the question that we begin with this evening. Why do you need to know, understand, and apply the perfections of God? Also called the attributes of God. Another way to say it even more simply is, why do you need to know what God is like? And one of the answers is because it is God's delight to be known and loved and glorified and therefore it will lead to your delight. He says, "For in these things I delight, declares the Lord at the end of Jeremiah 9:25." And what are these things? Not only that he practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, but also that men would know him. He delights in you knowing him. He says, "Don't boast in anything else, but what God what men should boast in is that he understands and knows me." So there's this distinction between understands me and knows me. understands has to do with beginning at least to comprehend who God is and what he's like. That's the understanding. We need to understand who God is and what he's like. And then he says understands and knows. The knows goes deeper. And it has to do with personally, affectionately, experientially knowing the Lord, which we can of course only do through the Lord Jesus Christ. But this these are the things that the Lord delights in that you would understand who he is and what he's like and you would know him. You would have fellowship with him. It would not just be only intellectual that you would know the perfections or attributes of God but that you would come to know him to love him to glorify him. So why do you need to know understand and apply the perfections of God? Because it's God's delight to be known and therefore that will lead to your delight. So the more you know and understand who God is and what he's like, the more your joy, the more your happiness will increase. So that's one answer. Why do you need to know, understand, and apply the perfections of God? But another reason that you need to know, understand, and apply the perfections of God or God's attributes is because God says the way to know him is to labor to comprehend his perfections and attributes. It's not simply know who I am that I created everything. It's even more specific. And that's why he mentions after he says in Jeremiah 9, this is what you should boast in that you understand and know me. Right after that, then he reveals a few of his attributes. So the way that God is understood and known who he is, what he's like, is by laboring to understand, to comprehend his perfections, his attributes. The same thing can be seen in Exodus 34 when Moses asks the Lord to show me your glory. Moses says, the Lord says, "No man can see me and live, but I will hide you in the cliff of the rock. and after I pass by, the Lord says, I will declare my name to you. So, the Lord is revealing himself to Moses. Moses can't see the Lord as a sinner and not die. But the Lord does sufficiently

reveal himself to Moses. And he does so, if you remember Exodus 34, he does so by proclaiming his name and then he lists his perfections. The Lord is saying, "The way that you know me and understand me is by comprehending, by thinking on, by meditating on my perfections, my attributes. I am slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, full of mercy and truth." The Lord declares himself to Moses, reveals himself by even, we can say, simply just listing his perfections. So the way to know him is to labor to comprehend his perfections, his attributes and his actions of course as they are revealed in the scriptures. So why do you need to know? Because it's God's delight to be known. And this will lead to your delight. God wants you to know who he is and what he's like. It will lead to your delight if you know who he is and what he's like. And the way to do that in our limited capacity is to understand and comprehend his attributes, his perfections. So therefore, let us tonight draw our attention to one of the perfections of God, namely God's immutability. God's immutability. So grab your Bibles and turn with me to Malachi 3:6. Malachi 3:6. This will likely be the last page of the Old Testament in your Bible.

Malachi chapter 3 verse 6. And as you find your place there, let me say these few words of clarification by way of introduction. What is immutability? I imagine it's not a word you use in your daily conversation that much. Think of the last time you were at work or doing schoolwork and you wrote or spoke the word immutability or immutable. We don't use it very much. But what is what does it mean that God is immutable or the immutability of God? Listen to Francis Turretin. This guy is a contemporary with the Puritans, but he was in Geneva, Switzerland. This is a like a spiritual descendant of John Calvin in Geneva, but he was alive at the same time of the Puritans. He has a wonderful three volume systematic theology called the Institutes of Olympic theology. Very clear, very helpful. And it's like if you can imagine you know the Puritans who came after the English reformers and the Puritans get like even more helpful because the reformers in England and on the continent they hammered out all these doctrines these basic doctrines and then the Puritans like built on it and helped us apply them and think through how to live in light of these things. And so it's a same type thing with Francis Turretin. He's in that next wave, like the Puritan type wave, though he's on the continent and not in England. But he does the same thing. He builds on those foundations that like Calvin laid and he does his Institutes of Elenctic Theology and it's very clear and very helpful. But listen to what he says about immutability. Immutability is an incommunicable attribute. Incommunicable attribute simply means it's not something that can be shared with any other creature. So God has communicable attributes that we can resemble like righteousness, holiness, but then he has incommunicable attributes that in no way can a creature, a created thing have. God is omnipresent. That's an incommunicable attribute because you and I could never be omnipresent. We can't be everywhere at once. God is omniscient. He has all knowledge and you and I can never have all knowledge. These are incommunicable attributes. And so he begins by saying immutability is an

incommunicable attribute of God by which he is denied of him not only all change but also all possibility of change as much with respect to existence as to will. What Turin is pointing out is it's an incommunicable attribute of God and it's a denial. A lot of times to describe the perfections of God from our vantage point, we have to basically just deny something that we do understand and we in denying that we're upholding God in his perfection. So immutability is a denial of something. What is it? Well, something that is mutable means something that is changeable. When we talk about mutability, it means something that can or does change. And everything that you know, everything in this world, every creature, everything that's been created can and does change. But God is not. So, so something is mutable, something that can or does change. Therefore, something that is immutable means something that is unchangeable, something that cannot or does not change. So, simply when we speak of the immutability of God, it is the same as speaking of God's unchangeableness, simple fact, God does not change. Immutability of God, God does not change. Now draw your attention to Malachi 3:6 and see why theologians have given us this, you know, shorthand. One of the perfections of God is his immutability. It's wonderful to have words like that to summarize a big doctrine. It's great. We have one word. Mutable means change. Immutable means cannot change. Rather than saying one of the perfections of God is for I the Lord do not change. Malachi 3:6, for I the Lord do not change. Is that hard to understand? It's not hard to understand the proposition, right? I don't change. It is hard to understand how that works, how that's possible. And it should be. You should look at that and think through that and labor to understand and apply that perfection of God and tease it out and go, "This is difficult to even comprehend." Because everything we've ever seen, everything we've ever touched, everything physical we've ever come in contact with is mutable, is changeable. Every person we've ever talked to is mutable, is changeable. But God says, "I do not change." You can see it clearly there in your own Bible. For I the Lord do not change. Consider two other texts. And there are there are multiple texts in the scripture that communicate this same truth. But consider just two more. James 1:17. James 1:17. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. There's not the language is there's no variation or shadow not even the smallest minutest change has ever taken place or will ever taken take place with God. He does not change. It's the same truth that's communicated about the Lord Jesus Christ in Hebrews 13:8. Got Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, and then Hebrews 13:8. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. So the doctrine that we should learn from Malachi 3:6 and James 1:17 and Hebrews 13:8 is this. The triune God, Father, Son, and Spirit, the triune God is unchanging in his essence and will, which is a terror to the wicked and a great comfort to the saints. The triune God is unchanging in his essence and will which is a terror to the wicked and a great comfort to the saints. You could see the comfort to the saints even in Malachi 3:6. If you go back and look in your own Bible, the Lord brings up his immutability to say, "This is why at this point in history, Israel, this is why you

are not destroyed and consumed. You are a stiff-necked, stubborn people, but I have not consumed you. I've not destroyed you because I am the Lord who does not change. For I, the Lord, do not change. Therefore, you, oh children of Jacob, are not consumed. So, the doctrine again, the trying God is unchanging in his essence and will, which is a terror to the wicked and a great comfort to the saints. There are those two main truths that are in the first clause that we need to understand concerning the immutability of God. And this when you say God does not change, these two main truths are what we mean by that. First, God's essence does not change. God's essence, who he is, does not change. Secondly, God's will does not change. God's essence does not change. God's will does not change. And after we've considered the scriptures on these two main points, I'll make some application to close us. So, first consider with me, God's essence does not change. God's essence does not change. This means God's nature does not change. God's nature does not change. Listen to Exodus 3:14. God said to Moses, "I am who I am." It's an absolute statement of, "I exist as I exist. I am who I am." And he said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel. I am has sent you." This is when Moses says, "Who am I going to tell them has sent me?" He said, 'Previously, I haven't revealed myself by this name, but I'm revealing myself by this name, by my personal name, Yahweh. And he says, I am who I am. No change in God's nature. Listen to Hebrews 1:es 10-2. You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They the heavens will perish, but you remain. They will all wear out like a garment, like a robe. You will roll them up like a garment. They will be changed, but you are the same, and your years will have no end. God's nature does not change. Steven Charnock commenting on this said, "God is without any new nature." God is without any new thought. God is without any new will. God is without any new purpose or new place. God is a necessary being. He is necessarily what he is and therefore is unchangeably what he is. God's essence, God's nature does not change. And the objection that some may bring up and even some heretics throughout church history such as the Socinian's, they would bring up, but did not God the Son change when he became a man? Did not God change when he became a man? Was Christ always the God man? And of course, we would say no. Christ was not always the God man. But did not then his essence or his nature change? The answer is no. Christ the son of God, the eternal son of God, his nature, his divine nature changed not at all. But he added humanity in the person of the son. He added humanity to his divinity. No mixing, no changing of the divine nature. No confusion. And this is why Christ is one person with two natures. Listen to Turretin again. He says, "God was not changed by the incarnation, but the eternal word, the logos, the word of God was made flesh, not by a conversion of the word into flesh, but by an assumption of the flesh to the hypostasis of the word." This is what we call the hypostatic union. Christ one person, two distinct natures, and his divine nature changed not at all. This is why it's important to have Christology correct that Christ there was no confusion there was no mixing there was nothing like that but Christ has a divine nature is divine and added a human

nature became a man and there's no mixing of the two natures why because God does not change and God in his essence cannot change so God's nature does not change but in addition to that God's perfections his attributes do not change. God has never been, to put it really simply and kind of crudely, God has never at one time been like more wrathful than he is now. God has never at any time been like more loving at a certain point than he is right now and has always been. His perfections do not change at all. And this is important to just think through and realize because there are many professed believers and surely true believers who don't understand the difference between the old covenant and the new covenant or they've just been blinded by false teaching. Not necessarily heretics that are leading people to hell, but by false teaching that act like God was really angry in the Old Testament, but then Jesus came and now God's really happy in the New Testament. But what that is actually doing is trying to change the perfections of God and saying that God was it's like this scale that's like in the Old Testament God's really wrathful and then in the New Testament it swings over here and God is really loving and his wrath is really low. That's a lie. God's God and his perfections do not change. His perfections are perfect and they will always be perfect and they always have been perfect. Malachi 3:6 again, for I the Lord do not change. James 1:17 again, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Char again says, the immutability of God is the foundation of all his perfections. For if he could change, he would not be perfect. Since change implies either improvement or decay, neither of which can be attributed to the infinite God. God's perfections his attributes do not change. Neither in his incommunicable nor in his communicable attributes will the Lord God or has the Lord God ever changed. The Lord God is perfectly self-existent and he will never be dependent on anyone or anything. The Lord God is perfectly immutable and never will he change or be changeable. The Lord God is perfectly infinite and never will he be limited. He is perfectly simple and never will he be divided up. The Lord God is perfectly omnipresent and never will he be absent from any square inch of any existence, even hell itself. The Lord God is perfect, perfectly omniscient and never will be ignorant of anything at any time. The Lord God is perfectly omnipotent and he will never be without absolute perfect power. The Lord God is perfectly sovereign and he will never be subject to another. He is perfectly holy and will never be unholy. He is perfectly righteous and will never be or act in an unrighteous manner. He is perfectly just and he will never and has never been unjust. He is perfectly merciful and never will he be unmerciful. He is perfectly good and never will he be stingy. He is perfectly faithful and never will he lie or be unfaithful. He is perfectly wise and never will he be foolish. The Lord God is perfectly truthful and never will he be deceitful. He has never nor will he ever change in any of his perfections. You have friends, fellow church members, and even sometimes family members who are here today and may completely change and be gone tomorrow. Think back on your life of friends, of even fellow church members, of family members who you had a certain relationship with at one point. And if you were to go back in time and someone said, "Are you guys going to be

friends forever?" You would think, "Of course, like there's nothing that's going to change this. We're a part of the same church or like this is one of my best friends or this is a family member." And then you can think right now, and I bet you can fill in the blank with someone, probably multiple people like it is crazy how much they have changed. Or maybe it's crazy how much you have changed and left them behind or something like that. But our world is filled with change. Our relationships are filled with change. Men may defend you one day and attack you the next. Men may love you one year and hate you the following. They may speak up for justice one month and fire at the innocent the next. Men may laugh with you one night and bite at you the following. Men are like a shifting sea tossed to and fro and whipped away like an undertow. They are like mist driven away by the wind. Always changing and never perfect until glorified. But not so with the triune God. He is a rock, immovable, unshakable, steadfast, unchangeable, immutable. His justice will never miss. His holiness will be vindicated. His truth will win. His mercy will always be near to his beloved. His love will hold and heal his elect. His glory will be victorious. His kingdom is everlasting. And one day you men who trust in Christ will be right by his side, reigning with him in eternal glory. Why? Because he's promised. and he doesn't change. So God's nature does not change. God's perfections do not change. And the summary of that is God's essence is immutable. No nature changed. No change in perfections. God's essence is immutable. But in addition to that, God's will does not change. This is the second major thing that we need to understand. First, God's essence does not change. Secondly, God's will does not change. Let me point out three particular truths here, though I think we could probably make more. We'll just do the three main things that we need to comprehend when we consider that the Lord says in Malachi 3:6, "I the Lord do not change." Turret was right and other reformed theologians have clearly articulated when God says he doesn't change, he means his essence and his will. That's what he's talking about. His nature, his essence, and his will. So God's will does not change. The first thing to take note of under that main point is God's decrees do not change. The decree of God is from all eternity. God has decided. I'm I'm trying to speak in it's almost crude language, not not like curse words or things like that, but like so simplistic so that if you're like me, it just helps to use like the simplest or almost the dumbest language that I can think of. That's what really helps me. So the decrees of God are the things in eternity that God decided would happen. That's the way you can understand it. Nothing has ever happened that God did not decide would happen in eternity. Nothing. A lot of people don't like that because the implication is and it and it truly is. So God decreed the fall of Adam into sin. Yeah. You think that was outside of his control? God didn't cause them to sin, but he did decree the sin. Uh, the worst things that we've ever seen happen. Did God decree that Charlie Kirk would be shot in the neck and die in front of his wife? Yes. Nothing has ever happened that God did not decree from all eternity. Listen to this. Psalm 33:11. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. The council of the Lord stands forever. The plans of his heart to all generations. Isaiah 46:10. I am the

Lord declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand and I will accomplish all my purpose." Numbers 23:19. God is not man that he should lie or a son of man that he should change his mind. He has said and will he not do it? Or he has spoken and will he not fulfill it? Isaiah 14:24. The Lord of Hosts has sworn, "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand." Or you can go to Ephesians 1:11. He works all things according to the council of his will. All things. Just because, just, by the way, just because certain doctrines that we find in scripture make us uncomfortable or bring up a ton of other questions does not give you the right to avoid it or to deny it or to say, "Well, I think that makes God unjust." If God decreed the fall, it's like there's a difference in decreeing it and doing it. He didn't do it, but he decreed it. He decreed it, permitted it, allowed it, decided that it would happen so that he could redeem his people from their sin through the Lord Jesus Christ. Why did God decree that Charlie Kirk would be shot in the neck? Well, it probably won't get the full answer until glory, but can't you already see a at least a little glimpse of like why would God decree that? Because this man gave his life to debating people who hated him, to having civil discourse with people who hated him and hated God and hated God's truth. And he proclaimed the gospel pretty much everywhere he went. And then he gets shot in the neck defenseless. And then 200 million people stream his memorial service where countless men stand up there and proclaim the gospel. You can already see little glimmers of like, why would God decree such things? Some things are way harder than that. This one's pretty easy to show forth his glory. To bring Charlie home because Charlie's with Christ. He's fine. And to show God's faithfulness even to Charlie Kirk's wife who's saying, "I'm devastated, but I'm okay. I forgive the murderer." And to even give our president an opportunity to stand up there after Kirk's wife says, "I forgive the murderer." Trump gets up there and is basically saying, "I'll never forgive that guy. We're going to execute him." It's like some people go, "I don't know about that." It's like, "No, that's exactly what I want in a magistrate." I don't want a magistrate saying like, "Yeah, we need to forgive this guy." I want a magistrate saying, "Cut his head off." That's exactly the role of the civil government. That that beauty that was on display in spite of all of Trump's faults, Erica has the right to forgive if she wants to, and she does. And Trump has the obligation to hate and carry out God's vengeance against the evildoer because that's what God says their role is. You can see in those little things some some questions are much harder than that. But nothing has ever happened to anyone that they didn't deserve. We all deserve far worse because of our sin than we could ever imagine. But just because we do not quite understand why God would do things, why God would decree certain things, just because we don't have the answer doesn't mean there isn't one, and we just may not get it until glory. God's decrees do not change. John Owens said, "As God himself is eternal and unchangeable, so are his decrees. They are the eternal and unchangeable products of his will which cannot be altered without implying a change in God himself. And the Lord says I do not change. Listen to chapter 3 paragraph 1 in our confession of faith the 1689. God hath decreed in himself from

all eternity by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will freely and unchangeably all things whatsoever come to pass. Yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any in their sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away. Meaning God uses means and second causes, but rather the contingency of second clauses isn't taken away, but it is established because of God's decree in which appears his wisdom in disposing all things and power and faithfulness in accomplishing his decree. What does this mean? Well, simply for our understanding of who God is and what he's like, nothing has ever surprised God, nor has anything happened that was not decreed by him. Christ, what this means when we get even more specific and when you think about the immutability of God's decrees, that God's decrees don't change. This helps us better understand our Bibles and better understand God's plan of redemption. You need to know that Christ is not plan B because Adam fell. God decreed that the fall would happen. So Christ is not like, "Oh, they fell into sin. I'll send my son to redeem them." No, he's not plan B because Adam failed. Christ is not plan C because Moses was unsuccessful. Christ is not plan D because Israel failed and didn't obey as they should. Christ is plan A to Z. It's all Christ. It's always been Christ and it always will be Christ. One objection that gets brought up when we speak of the decrees of God or the unchangeable nature of God is this. But does not God say that he repents such as in Noah's day and Saul's day? This is what what people will do. They'll they'll look at Genesis and see that God grieved and God repented that he made man after wickedness spreads all over the earth in Noah's day. The word that is used and it's an anthropomorphism meaning it's God speaking in a way that we as human beings can understand. He says I repent that I have made man. So God is saying I've changed my mind that I've made man. So people go well see God does change. God's decrees change. Not understanding it's an anthropomorphism and it's meaning God had already decreed all that would happen and changes the way he's acting towards certain people dependent on what they do or don't do. Just because God changes the actions towards some like Saul, he says, "I repent that I've made Saul king." What does he mean? That he's like, "Dang it, Saul failed. Now I'll change my mind." No. When God says, "I repent of something like in Noah's day or in Saul's day," what he's talking about is hitherto, he had been acting and giving his spirit to Saul upon the condition that Saul would obey him, but Saul continually disobeyed. So, the Lord is saying, "I'm no longer going to give you my spirit. I'm going to take it away." And this wasn't a change in the will of God or in the decree of God. It was simply a change in the way God acted towards someone dependent on what they were doing. So it it doesn't mean that God's decree God was surprised or God just couldn't believe that wickedness had took over the earth or didn't understand that Saul would do what he did. But here's what Will Helmus Abraol says about it. It is according to God's will that certain things will change. This however does not bring about a change in God's will. When repentance is attributed to God, this does not suggest a change in God himself, but rather a change in activity in comparison to a prior

movement towards the objects of that activity. This change being according to his immutable decree. Whenever God issues a promise or a threat which he does not carry out, this merely indicates that there was a contingency either expressly stated or implied which would determine whether or not the circumstances would take place. The fact was already known to God by virtue of his omniscience and his counsel.

What Brockl is pointing out is that when repentance is mentioned of God, it's an anthropomorphism to help us understand and it's not saying God has changed his will, changed his decree, changed his mind. It's saying he is going to now change the action that he was doing towards the person because he had told them if you don't do this, you don't get you don't keep getting this. And so the same way that Eid told Israel, if you will obey me, you will live in the land forever. If you disobey me, I'm going to throw you out of the land and you will be a shame among all the nations. I'll give you the land forever if you obey. They don't obey. So he changes his actions towards them, removes them from the land, and does it multiple times. So God and his decrees, God's decrees do not change. His will does not change. There have never been any plan B's. Not only was Christ not plan B, nothing has ever been plan B. But in addition to that, when we speak of God's will not changing, God's moral law does not change. That's a second truth you need to learn under God's will not changing. And this is why theologians have rightly we always when we're doing theology, we always have to make distinctions. This is why theologians have made the distinction between the moral law and the ceremonial law given on Sinai. There are some laws that are moral based on God's character, based on God's nature and actions, and they're always true for every person, all times, all places. That's the moral law. But then God does give ceremonial laws, which those people that he gave them to are morally bound to obey, but they're not the moral law in the sense of they're always right and wrong for all people in all times. God's moral law, not ceremonial law, but God's moral law does not change. This is why David says what he does in Psalm 119:89. Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. And this is why when Christ in his incarnation in the sermon on the mount teaches about the law, he says, "Do not think that I've come to abolish the law or the prophets, I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. What commandments is he talking about? He's talking about the moral law of God. Because Christ came not to abolish but to fulfill the law. Those who relax the moral law of God will be called least. And those who do it and teach others to do it will be called great in Christ's kingdom. God's moral law does not change. Objection. But did God not do away with the temple system and ceremonial laws when the new covenant was

established in Christ? Answer. The temple system and ceremonial laws were not moral in the sense that they are based on God's nature and therefore morally binding on all men in all times and places such as the ten commandments are. These laws the ceremonial under the old covenant are what we call purposive laws. This is a category and this is a word you need to understand. Purposive laws are different than moral laws. A purposive law is a law that God would establish for a period of time with a specific purpose. And they're not based on his nature and his character. They're not the moral law. They're purposive laws that existed until, as Hebrews says, until the time of the reformation. Until the old covenant system, all the ceremonial laws are done away with. These laws, purposive laws, existed for a specific time and purpose in order to prepare and point to Christ and his work as a redeemer. So the fact that we can eat shellfish and we can wear mixed clothing and we do not offer animal sacrifices does not mean that God changed his moral law and now he just changes it based on however he's thinking or feeling at the time. Now God's moral law has never and will never change. It will always be sin to murder. It will always be sin to steal, will always be sin and wrong, to commit adultery, to bear false witness, to have any gods before him. It will always be sin to dishonor the Sabbath day and not keep it holy. It will always be sin to worship God by images or make any image for worship. Those are moral and they don't change. Brothers, you need to understand by this that since God's moral law does not change, you have an immutable moral guide for how to live so that you most glorify and enjoy the Lord with this one life he has given you. You don't have to wonder what is right, what is wrong. You have an immutable moral law written on your heart first of all and then written with God's finger on the tablets summarily comprehending all the moral law and then even further summarized as our catechism question is this week in love God and love neighbor that's the sum of the ten commandments and the ten commandments is the sum of the moral law of God so the moral law of God summarily comprehended in the ten commandments and even more in the two great commandments does not change because it is based on his attributes and actions and our triune God does not change. The reason the Sabbath, the fourth commandment still applies today is because it wasn't simply based, it wasn't based on God just delivering people from Egypt. It was based even before that on the fact that God created the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh.

All of the moral laws of God will always apply. They do not change. So I say to you by exhortation, by consideration, if you want to be wise, labor to understand and apply the Ten Commandments. If you want to be blessed, labor to understand and apply the Ten Commandments. If you want to be used by God, labor to understand and apply the Ten Commandments. If you want to be a blessing to your wife and children and grandchildren and great grandchildren, labor to understand and apply and teach to those under your charge the Ten Commandments. If you want to be a force for good in your city, state, and nation, work hard to understand and apply and teach the Ten Commandments. The moral law of God does not change. And

the further that societies drift from the moral law of God when it comes to ethics, the further they drift towards apostasy and the more destruction comes upon a culture. When people disregard the moral law of God, destruction comes upon them. God's moral laws do not change. But lastly, you need to know that based on God's will, God's gospel does not change. The good news of who Christ is and what he's done does not change. Hebrews 13:8, again, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Praise God. Consider Galatians 1:8-9 for the fact that the gospel does not change. Even Paul says, "Even if we," meaning him and the other apostles, "if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preach to you, let him be accursed." As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. The gospel of God does not change. Listen to chapter 7, paragraph 3 in the 1689 confession and think with me. This truth—God's moral law does not change—It was written on the heart of Adam. Written on the heart of everyone that's ever existed. That's why people still died even though the law wasn't explicitly given until Sinai. Why did death reign from Adam to Moses? There there's no sin where there is no law. That's what Paul says in Romans. Like the point is there was a law and it was written on everybody's heart. They knew right and wrong. So the law is written on everybody's heart. It's written down with God's finger to Moses. It's pinned down in the pages of scripture for us. And the moral law, Adam had the same moral law that you and I have. Never changes. And the gospel, Adam had the same exact gospel preached to him that you and I have today. It's the gospel in what we can call seed form. And we have the gospel in a huge tree, but it's the same exact thing. All of the promises, the gospel is progressively revealed. God's new covenant, the covenant of grace is progressively revealed more and more throughout the scriptures and throughout redemptive history. But it is the exact same gospel. Listen to how our confession puts it in chapter 7, paragraph 33. This covenant, meaning the new covenant in Christ, the covenant of grace, is revealed in the gospel first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation by the seed of the woman and afterwards by farther steps until the full discovery thereof was completed in the New Testament. And it is founded in that eternal covenant transaction that was between the father and the son about the redemption of the elect. And it is alone by the grace of this covenant that all the posterity of fallen Adam that ever were saved did obtain life and blessed immortality. Man being now utterly incapable of acceptance with God upon those terms on which Adam stood in his state of innocency. The point of chapter 7 paragraph 3 was Adam had the same the essence the kernel form the seed form the same exact gospel that you and I have. Dispensationalists would have you believe that there are different ways that people have been saved throughout history. There and they even believe that there will be a different way that Jews in the end times will be saved even now in our future. Brothers, this is to say that God changes his good news. And people who try to antinomians today who try to get rid of one or all of the ten commandments are trying to change God. God's moral law doesn't change. It's based on his nature and character and

actions do not change. The gospel doesn't change. No one has ever been saved other than by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Amen. God's gospel does not change, though it has been progressively revealed more and more until Christ. Every sinner that has ever been saved has been saved in that same way by grace alone, through faith alone, and Christ alone. Though some under the old covenant looked to Christ through the shadows of the promise, and now we look to Christ in the substance of his finished work, but all of it is the same good news. So God's decrees do not change. God's moral law does not change. And God's gospel does not change. God's will is immutable. Now let me make a couple of points of application before we close. Two main things. See how terrible the immutability of God is to the wicked who will not repent.

God is not a man. He can't be bargained with. He can't be reasoned with like we could try to reason with a judge to give a more lenient sentence or let us off the hook even though we're guilty. God has declared what sinners deserve and what they will get if they do not turn from their sin and embrace Christ Jesus. Listen to this. Nah 1 3-6 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebukes the sea and makes it dry. He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither. The bloom of Lebanon withers. The mountains quake before him. The hills melt. The earth heaves before him. The world and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. The immutability of God that he is unchanging should terrify the wicked. It is the greatest terror to them. God's not going to change his mind. He has promised eternal death and damnation for those who do not turn to Christ in faith. But on the flip side of that, you need to see how encouraging the immutability of God is to the righteous who cling to Christ by faith. See how encouraging God's immutability is to we who cling to Christ by faith. Manton said, "God's unchangeableness is the rock upon which our faith rests. For if he could change in his purpose or love, what assurance could we have of his promises?" If God could change, who's to say he doesn't give us a promise and then just say, "You know what? I take that back." But since God is unchangeable, we have assurance of his promises, his purpose, and his love. Men, you have a high priest in Christ Jesus who is an unchangeable priest forever. Psalm 110:4, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind." Speaking to the son, the father says, "You are a priest forever." After the order of Melchizedek, you have a high priest who represents you before God, who takes away all of your sins, who imputes his righteousness to you, who works righteousness in you by his spirit, who has promised that those he justifies, he will glorify. He is a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. Just think of the how much the Lord wants you to be assured of your eternal salvation if you cling to Christ with a simple faith. The Lord says, "I have sworn and will not change my mind." As if we needed that. He's immutable. He's unchangeable already, but he gives us those emphatic words so that we would be at rest if Christ is our high

priest. You have in Christ perfect righteousness, complete forgiveness, and secured promises yesterday, today, and forever. If you are justified in Christ Jesus, will God ever *unjustify* you? Well, another way you could ask it is, if you're united to Christ Jesus through faith, will Christ ever be unrighteous? Will Christ ever go back in time and take away what he did on the cross. Will Christ ever fail to bring us to his father's mansions like he promised? No. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If you have him, you have everything you need. He is immutable. He is unchangeable. That means the righteousness he wrought for you in his life is immutable and unchangeable. The forgiveness he secured for you in his death is immutable and unchangeable. And the promises he gave to you that he purchased with his own blood are immutable and unchangeable. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. You have perfect righteousness, complete forgiveness, and secured promises because God is immutable. Lastly, you have a hope in Christ which is as unchangeable as your God. You have hope in Christ. Hope meaning a confident expectation of future salvation. Not cross the fingers but the Greek word *lance*. The true hope. You have hope in Christ which is as unchangeable as your God. Listen how seriously the Lord takes your assurance that you would have personal assurance of your eternal salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 6:16-18 for people swear by something greater than themselves and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his promise, he guaranteed it with an oath. So that by two unchangeable things, God himself and God's promise, that's the two unchangeable things. by two unchangeable things. He has the unchangeable character and of his purpose he and then he gives an oath so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie. We who have fled for refuge in Christ might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

God doesn't have desires. God doesn't have passions like we do. But God frequently speaks in an anthropomorphic way, meaning according to how we think and function just because he loves us, just to show us his mercy and his kindness. So he says, "When God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us." You have a hope in Christ which is as unchangeable as your God. So my exhortation to you is labor to understand, apply and teach the immutability of God and let that lead you to just stand in awe before him and worship him. Thus says the Lord, let not the wise man boast in his wisdom. Let not the mighty man boast in his might. Let not the rich man boast in his riches. But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord. Jeremiah 9:23 through 25. Our Father, we thank you for your word. We ask you to help us to understand and know you.

We thank you for sending your son into the world to save sinners like us. Help us to understand and to teach your immutability. Help us to comprehend it as much as we can this side of glory and just stand in awe before you in Christ's name. Amen. Amen. All right, Colton's going to lead us in a song. Thank you.

Be singing Psalm 100 this evening.

Psalm 100. We got to sing that sing that as a community group last night and we'll sing it tonight and we'll sing it on Sunday, Lord willing. All right.

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
- 2 Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him and rejoice.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.
- 4 O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto:
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
- 5 For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Amen. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, you are unchangeable and we thank you for this comfort that we have that the saints have by this truth. Father, be glorified, magnified, and sanctified in our hearts and our minds this day. And we thank you. We thank you for your glorious, perfect attributes. It's in Christ.