

Immutability: A Reason to Smile in a Faltering World

Introduction

- The world constantly changes — yet God remains the same.
- Key verse: Malachi 3:6 — “For I the LORD do not change.”

I. The Rock — God’s Immutability in Scripture

- Deuteronomy 32:4 — first use of the title “The Rock.”
- 1 Samuel 2:2 — Hannah: “There is no rock like our God.”
- Psalm 18:2 / 2 Samuel 22:2–3 — “My rock and my fortress.”
- Isaiah 26:4 — “The LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.”
- Habakkuk 1:12 — “O Rock, You have established them for reproof.”
- Matthew 7:24–27 — The wise man builds on the Rock: Christ.
- “All that God is, He has always been, and all that He has been, He will ever be.”

II. Communicable vs. Incommunicable Attributes

- Incommunicable: unique to God (immutability, eternality, self-existence).
- Communicable: reflected in us in part (love, mercy, righteousness).
- Illustration: We are moons reflecting the light of His sun.

III. Defining Immutability

- God’s perfect unchangeability in His essence, character, purpose, and promises. — MacArthur
- Essence: God’s nature never shifts.
- Attributes: His love, justice, mercy remain constant.
- Counsel: His purposes and decrees never fail.
- Psalm 102:25–27, Malachi 3:6, Jeremiah 31:3

IV. Addressing Apparent Contradictions

- “God regretted” (Genesis 6:6; 1 Samuel 15): Anthropopathic language — describing His actions in human terms.
- Creation: act was new, decree eternal.
- Incarnation: Christ’s humanity changed, divinity did not.
- Psalm 33:11 — “The counsel of the LORD stands forever.”

V. Mutability — The Contrast of Mankind

- Human beings constantly change: physically, emotionally, spiritually.
- “We are resolved to be as holy as angels in the morning, when the evening beholds us as impure devils.” — Charnock
- Isaiah 40:6–8 — “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

VI. Comfort and Security for the Believer

- God’s promises are reliable — Isaiah 54:10.
- Our salvation rests on His unchanging covenant.
- The Rock gives stability amidst a faltering world.
- Romans 8:38–39; Hebrews 13:8.

VII. Encouragement to Prayer

- We pray to a God who never changes His will or goodness.
- 1 John 5:14–15 — “If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”
- ““What comfort would it be to pray to a god that, like a chameleon changed color every moment? Who would put up a petition to an earthly prince that was so mutable as to grant a petition one day, and deny it another?” — Charnock

VIII. Terror to the Wicked

- God’s immutability means His justice is also unchanging.
- Ezekiel 8:18; Proverbs 1:25–28.
- His holiness will not be altered to accommodate sin.

IX. The Gospel — Joy to the Believer

- The unchanging God brings the greatest change — our salvation.
- “Delivered from the domain of darkness” — Colossians 1:13.
- Christ’s righteousness is unchangingly sufficient.
- “We are changing men and women who seek the unchanging God.”
- Richard Baxter: “Our comforts are changeable; ourselves are changeable and mortal; but so is not our God.”

Our houses may be burned; our goods may be consumed or stolen; our clothes will be worn out; our treasure here may be corrupted; but our God is unchangeable, the same for ever. Our laws and customs may be changed; our governors and privileges changed; our company, and employments, and habitation changed; but our God is never changed. Our estates may change from riches to poverty; and our names that were honoured, may incur disgrace. Our health may quickly turn to

sickness, and our ease to pain; but still our God is unchangeable for ever. Our friends are unconstant and may turn our enemies; our peace may be changed into war, and our liberty into slavery; but our God doth never change. Time will change customs, families, and all things here; but it changeth not our God. The creatures are all but earthen metal, and quickly dashed in pieces. Our comforts are changeable; ourselves are changeable and mortal; but so is not our God.

Hymn

- “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” — “On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand.”
- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
- Refrain:
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.
- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]
- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood,
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]
- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]