

Sermon  
Lanier Christian Church  
February 21, 2010

## God Is God – He Has Not Changed Malachi 3:6

I went to my hometown last week to visit with my mom and dad. A lot has changed from when I grew up there. There is now a mall where there was once nothing but woods. New businesses have popped up everywhere. Yes, there's a giant Wal-mart in town that has replaced the Hardware store, the Western Auto, the Dime Store and the Sears catalog store that I remember as a kid. My elementary school has been torn down. So has my high school. The church I grew up in has now changed its name and located to another part of town. My parents even live in a different house than the one I grew up in. Yes, a whole lot has changed.

A few things haven't changed. The lake – Lake Sinclair is still there. The Oconee river still flows. The old capital building still stands. The old governor's mansion is in the same place. And the Christian saints that influenced me from childhood – many of them are still living – including my parents – and the preacher that taught me so much – though retired, is still encouraging. My faith, that sprouted in my hometown has only grown – because my God does not change. He is a steadfast rock that holds firm regardless of the change all around.

Maybe you've experienced a lot of changes in your life – some good, some not so good, perhaps even hurtful changes. I hope you will agree with me today that there is no greater security for our soul than to know that we serve a God who never changes!

"I am God—yes, I Am. I haven't changed." Malachi 3:6 (MSG)

The same God who brought guidance and wisdom to Moses thousands of years ago still brings guidance and wisdom today. He does not change. The same God that offered comfort to the psalmist – shepherd – king, David – brings comfort to our hearts today. He

does not change. The same God who brought courage to Gideon brings courage to our hearts today. He does not change. The same God who spoke hopeful words to Mary and Martha still offers the same words of hope to us today. He does not change. The same God who offered salvation through Jesus some 2,000 years ago still offers salvation to countless souls today. He does not change!

Are you overwhelmed by the worries of the world? Are you consumed by all your cares? Are there too many changes in your life? Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega – the Beginning and the End – the unchangeable One – the Eternal One. Listen to what God's word says:

"I am God—yes, I Am. I haven't changed." Malachi 3:6 (MSG)

This morning I want us to look at five facts of an unchanging God. Lets jump in with fact one:

### 1. God's NATURE has not changed

He is infinite – He is eternal - He is almighty – He is all powerful. He has not changed.

We change. As children we grow – just not physically but emotionally and socially as well. It seems that our bodies are constantly in transition. As a toddler we seem to have unending amounts of energy – running here and there – discovering all kinds of things and getting into all kinds of mischief. During adolescence and youth our hormones change. We date – we marry – we raise families. We become parents then grandparents. But with time our metabolism slows down. Ageing takes its effect on all of us. We don't run so fast (if we even run at all). We don't see so well – our eyes have become dimmed and our vision blurred. We don't hear so well. We forget some things. Yet, God does not change! God is perpetually the same. He is not composed of flesh and bone. He is spirit – pure and holy. He remains the same – unchangeable. There are no wrinkles on His brow. No age spots on His hands. He does not get dark circles under His eyes for lack of sleep. He is the great I Am – the Great

Unchangeable. His essence does not change. Even when Christ became man – God’s nature did not change. Flesh did not become God – but God became flesh and dwelt among us. By this act the Godhead did not change God – for God is God and does not change. He remains everlasting, eternal, the one unchanging God, the Father of lights, with whom there is no shadow. We read in James 1:17:

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. – James 1:17

## 2. God’s CHARACTER has not changed

Whatever God’s character was from before time – it still is today.

Was He powerful when He created the universe? Was He mighty when He formed the mountains? Was He holy when He told Moses to remove his shoes for he was standing on Holy ground? Did God speak the world into existence? Of course He did. He was powerful then – and He is powerful now. He has not changed – He has not aged.

Was He wise when He put all things in order? When He set the stars and galaxies in their place? Did He have wisdom when He planned the way of salvation? Of course He did – He was wise then and He is wise now. His eyes see clearly. His ears hear every sound perfectly. His wisdom is unchanging from the beginning even till now – it has never – never changed. Look at Psalm one hundred and four:

How many are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104:24

He has always been holy. He has always been just. He has always been wise. “Holy, Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” - Isaiah 6:3

He is unchanged mercy. He is unchanged love. He is unchanged justice. He is unchanged truth. He is unchanged goodness.

He is unchanged generosity. God has not changed. That is why God says:

"I am God—yes, I Am. I haven't changed." Malachi 3:6 (MSG)

Mercy, justice, faithfulness, wisdom, patience, holiness, compassion and any other attributes of God – have not changed – forever and ever and ever.

But that is not all:

### 3. God's PLANS have not changed

Have you ever had to change your plans? We were going snow skiing last Sunday evening and Monday as an early present for Joy's birthday – but Joy got sick and our plans changed. There are unfinished houses all across our country because the economy tanked and businesses went bankrupt. Has this ever happened to God? Has He ever gotten sick – so He has to change His plans? Has He run out of money – so that He can not finish what He started? No! Never!

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. " - Philippians 1:6

God does not get sick. He does not run out of money. He is not forgetful. He has unlimited storehouses of supply and He will always - always accomplish what He sets out to do. Look at this promise God makes for His children:

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – Jeremiah 29:11

Every person makes plans –some are successful – but not all. Just ask those who didn't win a medal at the winter Olympics in Vancouver. God, however, is the master-mind. He knows all the "in-s and out-s". He knows all the details. God does not alter His plans

because He has the cold or the flu. He does not alter His plans because He has nothing to wear. He doesn't alter His plans because you don't agree with them. God's plans are from everlasting to everlasting. They do not change – they do not get adjusted. He is the everlasting God – the Mighty One - the Holy One and His plans will be accomplished.

Why should He change? He is God. Why should He adjust? He is God. He is the unchangeable One. You may change your plans. In fact – God may step in and “help” you change your plans. But He shall never – never – never change His plans for you. He has plans for your future and for your hope.

#### 4. God's PROMISES have not changed

Bernie Madoff promised thousands of people that they would make loads of money. He lied. He's in jail now for making false promises. Has anyone every broken a promise to you? Have you ever been lied to? I guess most of us have at some point – but here is a fact – you have never been lied to by God. What He says – He does. His yes is always yes and His no is always no. He does not change. He does not give you a promise one day – and take it back the next. God does not work that way. I like the way the Message Bible states Hebrews chapter six verse eighteen.

“God can't break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go.” Hebrews 6:18 (MSG)

A promise is never a promise if it is changing all the time. I don't know about you but I want something solid – something that is sure – something that I can rely on – and that something are the promises of God. God's Word is full of promises and they do not change.

That favorite of hymns says it so well:

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,

Through eternal ages let His praises ring,  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promises of God my Savior,  
Standing, Standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promises of God my Savior,  
Standing, Standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Folks you can rest assured that you can stand on the promises of  
God – because God's promises have not changed.

#### 5. God's LOVE has not changed

Did you know that from the beginning of time – God has loved you?  
It is true. From the beginning of time God has loved you. Look at  
what it says in Ephesians chapter one:

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy  
and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as  
his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and  
will— <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given  
us in the One he loves. – Ephesians 1:4-6

The Message Bible says it this way:

“Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind,  
had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy

by his love." Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)

God loves us with an everlasting love. God loves us with an unchanging love.

I know that many of you are parents – and as parents we have the honor and privilege of seeing our children grow up. I am amazed at how fast our children became adults and are now involved in this church and community. I'm a proud father. But I also loved my children when they were youngsters too.

Our children, John and Joy, loved to play outside. I would take them outside – and they seemed to look for ways to get dirty. Digging in the dirt, playing ball, making mud pies...anything to get dirty. Did Faith and I quit loving them because they were covered with filth? Did we give them up for adoption because they got dirty? Did we disown them for playing in the mud and dirt? No! They were still our children and there was nothing wrong with them that a little cleansing - a little bath time would not fix. We would take them and wash them – scrub them up – make them clean again. They were always our children - no matter how dirty they got.

The same is true of God. He knows that we have been playing out in the mud. He knows that we have gotten dirty. He knows what kind of filth is clinging to our clothes. He also has a way to clean us up. Look at what First John tells us:

<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

God's love has not changed. His forgiveness has not changed. He's been loving and forgiving since Adam and Eve walked the earth. We need to confess that we have fallen – that we are dirty – and that we need to be cleaned up. We need be washed by the Father and He will do it! Why? Because He loves you – because He cares for you – He has always loved you – He will always love you – because His love is unchangeable. It reaches to the highest heaven – but it also reaches down to the lowest pit. He knows our sins – He knows our faults and He wants to clean you up. What are you going to do? Are

you going to let Him clean you up? He is faithful – forever and ever and ever – to forgive us our sins and to cleanse from all unrighteousness. God’s love for you has not changed – no matter how dirty you have gotten.

Come to the one whose love is everlasting. Give your life to Him. Confess Jesus as Lord over your life. Be baptized into Him and begin a life of joy with the unchanging God who loves you most.

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