

## THE CHANGELESS CHURCH

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that the church in the N.T. is eternal and is not to be changed by man.
2. Heb. 13:8 **"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."**
3. Many in the church are wanting to change things. They predict that unless we change the church will not continue to exist!!! Will become extinct !
4. We are living in a changing world - communication, transportation, nations of the world, education etc.
5. There have been some changes in God's dealings with men: Patriarchal, Mosaical, Chr.
  - a. Heb. 1:1-2 -- there was a change **"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets. 2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"**
  - b. Heb. 7:12 - the priesthood was changed **"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law."**
  - c. There was a change of covenants
    - (1) Jer. 31:31 **"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:"**
    - (2) Heb. 8:8-9 **"For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord."**

6. What about changes in the church? The church we read about in the N.T.

## Discussion

### **I. QUESTIONS ABOUT CHANGE ????????????????????**

A. When talking about change in the church what are we talking about?

1. Times of services, number of songs, order of worship, number of prayers, place for L.S. in the worship - no !
2. Some want changes like:
  - a. The role of women - women in leadership
  - b. Changing the worship from congregational singing to solos, quartets and choirs, praise teams, some adding instrumental music
  - c. Change preaching from the word to drama, very little Bible taught
  - d. Change the plan of salvation saying baptism not essential
  - e. Taking the L.S. on Saturday night,
  - f. Change the name to community church
3. There were some people in the days of Samuel who wanted change:
  - a. 1 Sam. 8:5 **"And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."**
  - b. This made Samuel unhappy
  - c. But the Lord explained to Samuel in v.7 that they had not rejected Samuel but had rejected God.
  - d. The reason they wanted to change was a rejection of God and his commands.
4. The change Agents in the church today are wanting to change God's ways because they have rejected God and his commands.
5. These people are wanting to change matters that are beyond things of opinion!!!

**B. If the Church needs to change, who determines the change?**

1. Does a man have the right to make the changes? Is it going to be a certain preacher? Or some elder? Or a college President? Who decides which man?
2. Can a group of men decide that certain changes are in order? Group of preacher? Group of elders? What qualifies them to make the decision that the church needs to change?
3. Gal. 1:6-8 Paul declares that even an angel from heaven could not change the Gospel !!!!
4. If an angel could not do it, on what basis do we conclude that men can do so?

**C. If the church needs to change what will it become after it changes?**

1. It is now a divine organization.
2. What sort of church would the church be changed to?
3. Acts 20:29-30 The church at Ephesus had a possibility of changing -- but it was not for the better.
4. What will the changers make of the church in a decade ?

**D. If the church needs to change then how often should it change?**

1. Every century, every decade, every year? How often are we to make changes?
2. Why is it that the passing of time makes it necessary for the church to change?
3. Mt. 28:20 Jesus sent out the Apostles to teach the gospel to all nations and he promised to be with them unto the end of the world. If what they were to teach is to last until the end of the age, then that which is produced by such teaching would not change. What they preached produced the church!!
4. The gospel does not become outdated by the passing of time.
5. Time does not make changes within the church necessary !!!

## II. **THE CHURCH IS CHANGELESS**

A. Dan. 2:44 - **"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."**

1. Daniel predicted that the church would never be destroyed and would stand forever
2. Heb. 12:28 The writer declares that we have a kingdom that cannot be moved, shaken == changed **"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:"**

B. Why is the church changeless?

1. **It is the completion or fulfillment of God's eternal purpose.**
  - a. Eph. 3:10-11 **"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11. According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"**
  - b. The church was not an afterthought of God, or an accident or contingency that He was forced into as a substitute for the kingdom.
  - c. The church and the kingdom are the same thing
    - (1) Matt. 16:18,19
    - (2) Col. 1:13 **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"**
  - d. God planned for the church from the beginning.
    - (1) When God designs something then he never needs to change it

- (2) He does not reach conclusions by experimentation.
- (3) He knows before He starts whether or not and how a thing works.
- e. The church is changeless because its architect designed it perfectly.

## 2. **Sin has not changed**

- a. The church is composed of people who have been saved from the practice of sin:
  - (1) Acts 2:47
  - (2) 1 Jn.5:19 "**And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.**"
- b. As long as sin exists the need for the unchangeable church will continue.
- c. The church was designed to give sinners access to salvation from sin, and that need has not changed.

## 3. **The blood, which made the existence of the church possible, has not changed**

- a. Church purchased by blood of Christ
  - (1) Acts 20:28
  - (2) 1 Pet.1:18,19 "**Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**"
- b. Churches not purchased by the blood of Christ can be changed.
- c. But Christ's church is as changeless as his blood

- d. Heb. 10:11 - 14 "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12. But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13. From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

4. **Christ, its head, is changeless**

- a. Heb. 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
- b. Christ is the only head of the church as He has been for nearly 2,000 years.
- c. Eph. 1:22-23
- d. The church has not changed heads nor will it change heads as long as time shall last.
- e. The church authorized by God has a living head, not a dead head whose remains are preserved in some tomb today.
- f. In Christ resides all the executive, legislative, and judicial authority over the church.

5. **Bible Does not change**

- a. Matt. 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." John 8:32
- b. God gave us this final revelation and it does not need revising because God who is perfect in all ways gave it to us.
- c. No need to re-examine to see if it teaches new things! It does not change!

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Man is always searching for that which is constant, secure, certain and unchangeable.
  - a. It is the church -- in its essential features the church is unchangeable.
  - b. Some of the methods and matters of judgement can change but the divine structure of the church is changeless.
2. God has not changed. Neither has His word. His church has not changed.
3. Those men who are trying to change the church are not satisfied with the church as it is. They want something different.
  - a. But why?
  - b. It is the same problem as in the days of Samuel. They wanted to be like the nations around them. They did not want to continue to be different. They had rejected God's rule over them.
  - c. Why are men dissatisfied with the church today? Because they are trying too please themselves not God. They want to be like the denominations !
4. Shall we change the church? NO !!!! Absolutely not!!!!
5. The world changes all about us constantly:
  - a. Ways of travel - roads improved
  - b. Communication improvements
  - c. Medical advancements
  - d. Technology is changing swiftly

6. But change is for the world and only for this world
  - a. One day this world will perish
  - b. 1 Pet. 3:10 **"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."**
  - c. For those who are determined to go to heaven we must heed the warnings of the Bible and not change God's plan.
7. Physical things change, but eternal things do not.
8. We live in the physical and must change to conform to God's will by living as a child of God. We look forward to that eternal home with God which will not be changed.
9. Prov. 24:21 **"My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change."**
10. The church should not change for there is no need to change that which God has built.
11. There is a need for positive change:
  - a. If in your life you are not living in harmony with God's will then make those changes needed -- HBRCB=S or Repent, Confess and Pray.
  - b. Things in the church that are not what they ought to be should be changed - worship/work/organization -- anything that is not in harmony with God's will!!!

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Bibliography

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