



The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 11

April 20, 2025

No. 16

The More Things Change, the More He Stays the Same

By Jamey Hinds

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

One of the biggest challenges of life is the changes, big and small, that come to us unannounced. Now, some people love surprises, but many don't. And those who don't may well be adamant in being surprised: they simply don't like them at all no matter what or when or who is doing it.

Most of us like planning things that will happen just the way we have planned them. But then life comes crashing in. It might be small changes that seem to add up suddenly. It might be really big challenges that come to us as obstacles: like a health or financial issue—how many of us have lost sleep over these things?

We know the statement that the more things change, the more they stay the same—because this is life at all times.

So, how do we deal with change?

The Marine Corps spends a lot of time training recruits in accepting change, embracing it, and learning how to appropriately deal with it. "The only easy day was yesterday." It's about adapting to the change.

Christians should be better equipped in dealing with change because we have as our Lord and Savior the One who never changes: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." We would benefit from the context from which this statement is placed: Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace and not by foods of no value to those devoted to them. (Hebrews 13:7–9)

One good point to stress here is that spiritual leaders should be stable. The encouragement given here in Hebrews is about following the lead of our leaders who spoke the word of God to us. Consider the outcome of their way of life. Consider the following apostolic statements:

- 1 Cor 11:1 You are to imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.
- 2 Thess 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not undisciplined among you,
- 2 Thess 3:9 Not that we lack this right, but we wanted to offer ourselves as an example for you to imitate.
- 3 John 11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

This is part of the reason why it's important who we choose to follow (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:1–14).

Paul also reminds us that we were:

Alienated from God and were hostile in your minds, engaging in evil deeds. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy, unblemished, and blameless in His presence—if indeed you continue in

your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope of the gospel you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. (Colossians 1:21–23)

It's not just that we begin our journey, we must finish it—see it to the end.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but to all who crave His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:7–8)

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should embrace this point of view. (Philippians 3:12–15)

People are fickle. This isn't a new thing—we know this to be humanity's calling card. For some, their obedience may not depend on anything more than what day of the week it is—some Christians are holy people on Sunday, but come Monday, they're just like everyone else around them.

What agreement can exist between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people." "Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." Therefore, beloved, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 6:16–7:1)

Even preachers need the reminder to be constant:

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will gather for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (2 Timothy 4:2–4)

Harding Street Bulletin

It's Always Needed

by Shane Williams

I heard a story of a man in the mid 1950's entering school to study engineering. A professor told the entering freshmen class to buy the best slide rule they could afford. The reason: "You will be dependent on it all your 'professional life.'" Well, of course, it wasn't too long before the slide rule was replaced by the calculator. We've seen those same sorts of things in recent years: 8 tracks, cassette tapes (almost), & even VHS tapes! Things that today we consider essential may quickly become obsolete. Tomorrow they may be discarded as antiques that cannot provide the help we need.

At least one thing from the past, however, will always be needed and never become obsolete. It is the Bible, God's Holy Word. No matter how much technological change and progress takes place, the Book will remain the one sure means for getting the right answers to the complicated questions: our origin, our purpose, our needs, and our final destination.

- Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- Psalm 18:30, "As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him."
- Psalm 119:160, "The entirety of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous judgments endures forever."
- 1 Peter 1:23, "For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God."

Make sure you keep your Bible around and use it! **You'll always need it.** seekingthingsabove.org

