God Is Immutable

Intro: Immutable means “unchanging over time or unable to be changed.” To state that God is immutable is to state that God does not and is not able to be changed.

I. God Is Immutable
   A. The Bible affirms such:
      1. Mal. 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”
      2. Balaam said to Balak; Num. 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”
      3. Samuel said to Saul; 1 Sam. 15:29 “And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.”
      4. Jam. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
      5. Heb. 13:8 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”
   B. God’s nature demands such:
      1. The nature of being the “I am.”
         a. Exo. 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”
         b. ISBE writes, “As uncaused and self-existent, God cannot be changed from without; as infinitely perfect, He cannot suffer change from within; and as eternal and independent of time, which is the ‘form’ of change and mutability, He cannot be subjected to change at all. God’s unchangeableness, therefore, follows from His self-existence and eternity” (p. 3033).
      2. M’Clintock and Strong wrote: “To suppose Him otherwise is to suppose Him an imperfect being; for if He change, it must be either to a greater perfection than He had before or to a less; if to a greater perfection, then was there plainly a defect in Him, and a privation of something better than what He had or was; then, again, was He not always the best, and consequently not always God: if He change to a lesser perfection, then does He fall into a defect again; lose a perfection He was possessed once of, and so ceasing to be the best being, ceases at the same time to be God. The supreme perfection of the Deity, therefore, is an invincible bar against all mutability; for whichever way we suppose Him to change, His supreme excellency is nulled or impaired by it” (Cyclopaedia of Biblical Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, p. 520).
      3. Change implies imperfection.
   C. Yet, the Bible affirms that God repented.
      1. Gen. 6:6 “And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”
      2. 1 Sam. 15:11 “It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.”
      3. Regarding Nineveh; Jonah 3:10 “And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.”
4. In each of these it is man who changed:
   a. God did not change.
   b. Man has changed his relationship to God (going from obedience to disobedience or vice versa).
   c. God’s attitude toward obedience and disobedience remained the same.

II. THE PRINCIPLES THAT GOD HAS DEALT WITH MAN HAS NEVER CHANGED.
   A. Hear God
   B. Believe God
   C. Obey God
   D. If we hear, believe, and obey, God will bless us; if we don’t God will punish us.

III. APPLICATION
   A. God does not change about His holiness (free of sin).
      1. Jam. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
      2. 1 John 1:5-6 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”
      3. Man can change from sin to righteousness or freedom from sin, and from righteousness to sin.
   B. God does not change about His justice.
      1. When God says something, that is the way it is.
      2. If you do not accept it as God has given it, you will be punished.
      3. There is no respect of persons in this area with God.
         a. Rom. 2:11 “For there is no respect of persons with God.”
         b. Acts 10:34 “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:”
         c. God does not consider the person but His law, and He is just by that law.
            (1) Heb. 2:1-3 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”
            (2) Heb. 10:28-30 “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.”
   C. God does not change in His love; Jer. 31:3 “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”
   D. God does not change in His grace.
      1. It is found only in Christ; 2 Tim. 2:1 “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”
2. Unless one gets into Christ he cannot have God’s grace, to salvation of his soul.
   a. Rom. 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
   b. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
3. It has been made available to all men; Tit. 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.”

IV. MAN IS CHANGEABLE.
   A. I might treat one person one way and another person some other way (just to one and unjust to another.)
   B. I might not keep my word.
   C. This is not true with God.
      1. God will do what He says He will do.
      2. 2 Pet. 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
   D. Man’s changeableness is his hope of salvation.
      1. Repentance is dependent upon man’s changing.
      2. He must change from living in sin, to living according to God’s will.
         a. 1 Thc. 1:9 “For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;”
         b. Acts 14:15 “And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.”
      3. It also means that man can change from righteousness to wickedness.
         a. Gal. 4:8-9 “Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”
         b. 2 Pet. 2:20-21 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”

Conclusion: Our hope of salvation rest upon the facts that God does not change but that man can change; Heb. 6:17-20 “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” Have you made the necessary changes in your life?