

The Attributes of God ~ His Immutability

Intro: The Immutability of God is His capacity to remain the same. God is eternally unchanging in His Being, Attributes and Purpose.

1 Samuel 15:29

"Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the LORD,
the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.

Malachi 3:6

"For I, the LORD, do not change;
therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- Why (God) will not change His mind. 1 Samuel 15:29
- What God does not become. Isaiah 40:28
- What God does not do. Malachi 3:6

Interpretation:

1 Samuel 15:29 Why does God not have to change His mind? _____

How does this passage present man in comparison to God? _____

Isaiah 40:28 Read Isaiah chapter 40. In light of the context, what is the point of this verse? _____

What is significant about God not becoming weary or tired? _____

Malachi 3:6 What is the meaning of this verse in light of its context? _____

Note:

All of us change our minds from time to time. But what would it take to always make the right decision ... to never ever have to change our minds?

It would take the ability to know and control everything around us ... abilities only God possesses.

Note:

In chapter 40, Isaiah prophesies about Israel's salvation fulfilled in the coming of the LORD to Jerusalem. It is filled with verses declaring the supremacy and power of God, underscoring His ability to fulfill His promise to save His people.

To give emphasis to God's abilities, He is said to 'never become weary or tired'. In effect, God does not change, but is ever able to do what He says He will!

Note:

Malachi is prophesying to post exilic Israelis who are beginning to think that God has abandoned His covenant with them. Verse 6 is God's rebuke to that kind of thinking.

The Attributes of God ~ His Immutability (cont)

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Romans 11:29

for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- How the 'Father of lights' is described. James 1:17
- When Jesus is the 'same'. Hebrews 13:8
- What the gifts and calling of God are. Romans 11:29

Interpretation:

James 1:17 What does 'variation or shifting shadow' mean? _____

Why does James describe God in this way here? _____

Hebrews 13:8 What is the point here in light of the context? _____

Romans 11:29 What is the significance of this verse in light of its context? _____

How is our salvation dependent on God's immutability? _____

Note:

Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon, or a majestic scene lit brilliantly by the sun? And then watched the scenery change as the sun moved across the sky, varying the angle of the light? That is what this verse is speaking about.

God is *not* like the changing scenery whose appearance varies by the 'shifting shadow'. He is constant, unchanging and forever the same.

Note:

The assurance of God's Grace lies in His Immutable nature. To the Hebrew readers who contemplated leaving their new found Christian faith to return to their historical Jewish faith, the writer reminds them of the immutability of Christ. The effect of Jesus' sacrifice is eternal.

In the same way, God's call and promise to save Israel is also unchanging, and will one day be realized.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Immutability?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Immutability of God is a comfort to believers, for it assures their salvation. But it is a source of discomfort for unbelievers, for it assures their condemnation and punishment. God will not alter His Word or Purpose. You will never have to wonder if He will revise, reverse or refashion His declared will, for He never changes ... ever.

*God is Immutable
He Does Not Change!*