**Jesus Christ is the Same**

*Hebrews 13:8*

**Introduction**

1. The immutability of God is highlighted and emphasized throughout the bible. In all His dealings with Israel, it was His word and character that was consistent – any changes in the relationship resulted from the deviation of Israel from the things of God. (**cf. Isaiah 59:1-2)**
2. **Hebrews 13:8** is a beautiful verse which speaks volumes about the character and nature of Christ.
   1. This verse is a powerful testament on its own.
   2. However, it is important that we consider the verse within its context.
3. Not only does the verse stand as a wonderful form of encouragement, but also as a powerful warning.
4. The Context
5. The Epistle
   1. Drifting away – **Hebrews 2:1; 3:6, 12; 4:1, 11, 14; 6:4-6; 10:22-23, 35-36; 12:12-13**
   2. ***“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.” (2:1, NASB)***
      1. The very concept represents something fixed, and stationary, and another thing which is moving away.
      2. One who falls asleep in a boat and wakes up to the shoreline being further away than when they closed their eyes does not entertain the thought that the shore did the moving.
   3. Jesus is the same:
      1. **Yesterday** – not in respect to His eternal existence (**1:10-12**), but in relation to the reader’s relationship with Him through His word.
         1. I.e. when you first heard and responded.
         2. **Hebrews 2:3-4; 3:14; 4:2; 6:4-5; 10:23, 32-34** – these look from their present back to their beginning.
      2. **Today** – they are not in the same spot, but Jesus is.
         1. In great contrast between “today” and “yesterday,” who changed?
         2. **Revelation 2:4** – who left who?
      3. **Forever** – their duty to return, because He will not be moving, and it will always be their duty to remain. (**cf. 2 Timothy 2:13**)
         1. As “yesterday” is contextually historical (i.e. their yesterday concerning their relationship with Christ) and not theological in significance, so is “forever.” (Though this is true – **1:8)**
         2. καὶ (kai, and) εἰς (eis, unto) τοὺς (ho, the) αἰῶνας (aiōn, ages) – and unto the ages. (**cf. Ephesians 2:7** – throughout the times, as one age comes upon the age, through all generations and times)
         3. Life under the sun rolls on and changes, but throughout all times and eras and ages, Jesus is the same – always relevant.
   4. While the verse presents a beautiful form of encouragement concerning Jesus’ immutability and faithfulness, it also presents a weighty admonition and warning to anyone who has changed or might be tempted to change.
6. The Text (**vv. 1-16**)
   1. **Verse 8** is the pivoting point between **verse 7 and 9.**
      1. **(v. 7)** – leaders who had spoken God’s word and lived faithfully – change occurred through death.
         1. They may not be here anymore, but Jesus is the same.
         2. The Jesus they taught you – ***“spoken the word of God to you.”***
      2. **(v. 9)** – don’t be carried away – i.e. from Christ **(v. 8)** – by ***“strange doctrines”*** – *xenos* (foreign), *didachē* (teaching)
         1. How is it foreign? – to what you were taught before **(v. 7),** to all that Christ in His word is **(v. 8).**
         2. **(vv. 9-16)** – will elaborate on the doctrinal point – they need to leave Judaism completely and come out of it to Christ (He is separate from that system).
   2. A change in circumstances cannot alter one’s morality **(3:12-14)** – Christ hasn’t changed:
      1. **(v. 7)** – not just what they taught, but ***“considering the outcome of their conduct”***
      2. **Brotherly love** **(vv. 1-3)** – let it continue, i.e. you have been doing it in response to Christ, circumstances have changed, but you must continue.
         1. **1 Peter 1:22** – unto sincere love of the brethren.
         2. **Hebrews 6:10** – you minister and do minister.
         3. **Hebrews 10:32-34** – you became a companion of the persecuted and had compassion on those imprisoned.
         4. **THOUGH THINGS MAY SEEM DIFFERENT NOW, JESUS IS NOT, AND YOU ARE NOT TO BE.**
      3. **Sexual purity** **(v. 4)** – continue to hold marriage in honor through fidelity, and teaching truth.
         1. Imperative – ***“Marriage is to be held in honor among all” (NASB)*** – not taught as something to abstain from (**cf. 1 Timothy 4:1-3).**
         2. Not seeking comfort in worldly pleasure – **Hebrews 3:13**
         3. **THE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES DON’T CHANGE JESUS’ DOCTRINE ON MARRIAGE, AND PURITY.**
      4. **Contentment and trust in the Lord** **(vv. 5-6)** – continue to trust that Jesus will take care of you, and all you need is Him.
         1. **Hebrews 10:34** – at one point you joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods.
         2. **THINGS MAY SEEM DIFFERENT NOW, BUT JESUS IS THE SAME.**
   3. A change in circumstances does not change the truth of Christ **(vv. 9-16):**
      1. **(v. 9)** – some trying to tell you that spiritual substance is in fleshly ordinances, but it is in God’s grace.
         1. **Galatians 3:2-3** – began by God’s grace through Spirit’s revelation, but now by flesh/works?
      2. **(vv. 10, 15-16)** – There is spiritual service, far superior to anything to do with the Old Law, which those who hold onto the Old Law have no right to be a part of.
         1. **Hebrews 9:1, 9-10** – the Old Law was the fleshly type of the true spiritual substance now in Christ.
         2. **1 Peter 2:4-5** – these are the sacrifices God is pleased with.
      3. **(vv. 11-14)** – using the figure to show they must make a clear and decisive break from Judaism – THE BENEFITS OF CHRIST DON’T COME THROUGH THE OLD LAW, BUT THE NEW COVENANT HE DIED FOR.
         1. He was outside the camp at the beginning of your faith.
         2. He still has not moved **(v. 8)** – you must not move from Him.
7. Applications
8. The truth of Christ is not to be adapted to our times and circumstances, rather, we are to adapt to the truth of Christ regardless of our times and circumstances.
   1. **Romans 12:1-2** – not conformed but transformed.
      1. Not simply in doctrine, but in morality.
   2. **1 Peter 1:23-25** – eternal relevancy of the truth.
9. Nobility of mind does not require skepticism of settled truths.
   1. **Acts 17:11** – the Berean example is not to question or doubt everything you’ve ever known, but to search the standard of truth with an honest heart.
   2. When I come to know with objective proof that something is true or false, while I may study further to strengthen my faith, I do not need to uproot everything and start over in order for my faith to be valid.
      1. **Hebrews 5:12** – need to be taught again.
      2. **Hebrews 6:1-2** – known and settled truths must be built upon, not continually relearned as from the beginning.

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus Christ is the same – He does not and will not change.
2. This should encourage by the trustworthiness which He possesses, and it should dissuade us from ever thinking we can deviate from Him and be safe.