

Sermon by Bob Brown on Sunday AM 9/13/09
"Attributes of God 4 - Immutability"

By definition, immutable means, unable to change, when defining this attribute to God, He is "absolutely unchangeable."

Since we are talking about the attributes of God, we have to know Him about whom we are speaking. Therefore we have to understand more of His character in order to understand Him. We can only know His character through our understanding of the Names that He has revealed to us, about Himself.

There are two familiar verses in the Scriptures that we refer to when we think of the immutability of God:

Exodus 3:14 *"God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."*

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

We learn of His name and character at the same time, I AM tells us that He is, always has been, always will be. The apostle Paul explains to the church at Philippi, that Jesus is God in bodily form, *"...exalted by God to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name..."* **Philippians 2:9**

The name of God, Yahweh, comes from the Hebrew word for "I AM." The Bible uses the name of God, I AM, to show His unchanging nature. As God spoke to Moses, He spoke of who He always has been, even though He is now introducing Himself in a new way.

Exodus 3:15 *"God also said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."*

We are so blessed to know that everywhere in the Bible we see God as being in very close contact with His Creation in this world. All through the Scriptures we see the testimony of God that He always remains the same, no matter what the situation is that arises.

Even though everything else ceases at some point, He remains what He is. Look at the following scripture:

Psalms 102:26-27 *"They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same. And your years will never end."*

Even when it seems like our lives are falling apart, God remains the same, steady, in control, and loving.

In all of our lives we have to understand what the apostle Paul came to understand, not only is God immutable, but He has a plan for each one of us as well.

Romans 11:29 *"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."*

Somewhere, before the beginning of time, God included you in His plan to be right here, right now, following and serving Him. His plans for you and me have not changed and they won't. Our calling is to find that plan and live in it!

The prophet Malachi, the last prophet to be heard from before there would be over 400 silent years, summed up God's immutability very well when he wrote:

Malachi 3:6 *"I the Lord do not change."*

That word would be an essential benchmark for the people then, and for you and me today. We need to know and understand that God does not change. There is no variation, no swaying with the wind, nothing that will allow Him to change.

The concept of an eternal and immutable God is not produced by the senses, because every creature, including man, is changeable. Yet, somewhere deep within our soul we seek and find that which is unchangeable, some thing that is better and much greater than the things that are subject to change.

If God were not immutable, He would not be God. His name is being, and His name is an unchangeable name. If anything changes, it ceases to be what it was. But real being, is only applicable to Him who does not change. That which really is remains. It is, not it will be or it was, it is!

Creation, revelation and incarnation did not bring about any change in God. God never came up with a "new plan". He always had the one and only, immutable will.

The doctrine of God's immutability is of the highest significance for our understanding of all religion. The contrast between being and becoming is the difference between Creator and creature. Every creature is becoming, it is changeable, constantly striving, seeking rest and satisfaction. We can only find that rest and satisfaction in God, and God alone, for He alone is pure, unchanging and never becoming. That is why through out the Scripture God is referred to as our rock.

Deuteronomy 32:4 *"He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just."*

God transcends every change in time because He is eternal; He transcends all space because He is Omnipresent, and He is pure in actuality. God is the I WILL BE THAT I WILL BE, eternally transcendent above space and time and eternally exalted above every creature and created thing. Constant and loving toward each person He has created, and loving us beyond our ability to grasp it, for all eternity.