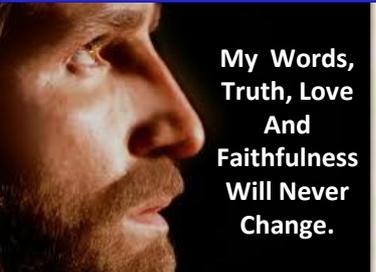


heaven is the same Christ Who sat and shared meals with the worst of sinners. He loves as much today with the crown of glory on His head as He did when He wore a crown of thorns on His head. Our world has changed in the past 2000 years, but Jesus' love has not changed. If you've been embraced by Jesus' love and have trusted His blood to pay for your sins, then you can be sure that He will never stop loving you and that absolutely **"Nothing can separate you from God's love in Christ"** (Romans 8:38-39).

"We Must Grow In His Love For Others"

Once you have that solid assurance, you can start loving others as Christ has loved you. In Hebrews 13 the Bible says, **"Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourself were suffering"** (Hebrews 13:1-3). In other words, love those who are close to you, love those who are new or strange to you, and love those who are hated by others. Without Christ your love even for people close to you can fade, but with Christ your love even for strangers and prisoners can grow. Put yourself in their shoes. Ask for the Spirit of Christ to give you a love for others as passionate and permanent as His love for you. Jesus' love is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

"His Truth Never Changes"



We must consider Christ's unchanging truth. We've already seen that His Faithfulness and standards don't change, and we must realize that this applies to all of His truth. Jesus has said, **"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away."** Nothing is **more foolish than to think that new times and changing trends mean that Jesus' Words are**

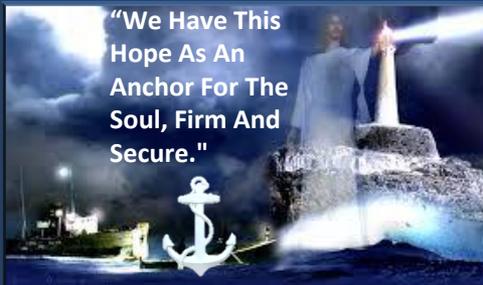
no longer relevant or that the truth isn't what it used to be. When people deny that God created the world, or deny that Jesus is God or that He rose from the dead, or deny that the Lord knows and controls the future, they don't know what they're talking about. Even if all people on earth rejected Jesus and followed their own beliefs, it would not change the truth of Christ. In that case, says the Bible, "Let God be true and every man a liar" (Romans 3:4). Time changes many things, **but time does not change Jesus Christ. So put your confidence in Him. Embrace His unchanging love and seek to imitate it. Trust His unchanging faithfulness and rest content in His care. Believe His unchanging truth and tell it to others. Then, whatever lies ahead, you can face the future fearlessly and joyfully.**



In the year 2018, we've had bigger worries than usual, and we've had a stronger sense of how much the world changes with the passing of time. Looking back a hundred years, we see a world without radios, televisions, computers, airplanes, or nuclear weapons. Looking back a thousand years, we see a world without electricity,

printing presses, or guns; a world without democracy or communism; a world in which nations such as the United States and Canada did not exist. The world changed enormously in the twentieth century and the second millennium, so we can only wonder what changes lay ahead in the twenty-first century and the third millennium. When you look at the big picture and think in terms of centuries and millennia, you may feel like a tiny speck. **Even if you ignore the big picture and focus only on concerns about this coming week and this coming year, you may have a disturbing feeling that everything is unstable and uncertain, that there's nothing you can count on to stay the same.**

"An Anchor For The Soul"



The Bible says this in the first chapter of the book of Hebrews, and the eternal, unchanging character of Christ is emphasized throughout Hebrews. Around the middle of Hebrews, Scripture says of God's promise in Christ, **"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm**

and secure" (Hebrews 6:19). **If you've been blown this way and that way by turbulence and changing times, it feels great to have both feet standing firmly on the rock-solid reality of Christ. Faith in Jesus brings security and stability you can't find anywhere else. Your health can change, your relationships can change, your finances can change, weather patterns can change, economies can change, technology can change, governments and national boundaries can change, but "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."** Jesus Christ's truth is unchanging. Christ gave His truth to His Prophets and Apostles, and His truth hasn't changed in the past 2,000 years. **Changing times don't change the Lord. All other things, even the very earth and sky, are changing. The Bible says earth and sky are like clothes that eventually wear out and must be changed. Hebrews 1:11-12 states, "You Remain The Same, And Your Years Will Never End".**

"Jesus Is A Person, Not A Statue"



If Christ is forever the same, does that mean He sits around, doing nothing? No, Jesus is not a motionless, lifeless statue; He is a living, active Person. He is changeless not in the sense that nothing ever happens with Him but in the sense that, though He is always making fresh things happen, His identity and character do not change. Jesus Christ always

was, now is, and forever will be the Son of God, One with His Father and the Holy Spirit in the Holy Trinity. Nothing can change Who Jesus is as God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity. The Son of God took on a human nature, but that did not affect His identity as God or change His divine nature in any way. Again, the Lord's unchanging nature is not that of an unmoving, unthinking statue but that of a Person whose character is so perfect it can't be improved and Whose knowledge is so complete it can't be increased. Jesus is not just a statue to be admired but a Person to be trusted, loved, and obeyed. When Hebrews 13:7 says "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever," it makes this declaration amid a flurry of instructions for living in a personal relationship with Jesus and in personal relationships with other people. In a changing world, you need to build your life on the unchanging Person of Christ. The Lord Himself doesn't change or improve, but your relationship to Him can change and improve as you know Him better, and your own character can change and improve to be more like His unchanging character.

"People May Change, But He Changes Not"

Ordinary people may change for better or worse. They may develop a different identity and personality than they once had. Relationships may change them. Success, wealth and power may change them. Illness, trouble, and loss may change them. You may know people who changed so much over time that they're not the persons you once knew. Your spouse may not seem like the person you married years ago. Your children may be different from the kids you once knew. Friends and co-workers who were once very close may change personalities and grow apart. Christ doesn't change like that. His personality is so splendid it can't get any better and so strong it can't be corrupted. Jesus Christ is completely perfect yesterday, today and forever. Many of us change as our experience, education and knowledge changes. As we learn things we never knew before, we gain many new beliefs, and we may also give up some beliefs we once held. Christ doesn't change like that. In His divine nature, His

knowledge never changes. The Lord has always known all things past, present and future. Nothing new can be added to what He already knows. Nothing can change the way He sees things or reshape his personality. He never gains a new belief or gives up an old belief. The Lord does not guess or theorize; He simply knows, and His knowledge doesn't change. Long before He created the world, He already knew everything that would happen in the year 2000 and beyond. Things that happened millennia ago are as present to His mind as things that are happening right now. Nothing in the past can slip His mind. Nothing in the present can escape His notice. Nothing in the future can catch Him by surprise. Jesus Christ is all-knowing yesterday, today, and forever.

"Unchanging Love"



First, consider Jesus' unchanging love. The Bible says that God is love and that God showed His love by sending His One and only Son into the world that we might live through Him (1 John 4:8-9). Even before Jesus came, God loved His people and moved Old Testament

believers to sing that the Lord's love "Reaches to the Heavens" (Psalm 36:5) and that "His Love Endures Forever" (Psalm 107:1). But only in the coming of Jesus did God show the full extent of His love. When Jesus welcomed and forgave some of the lowest people in society, He was called a friend of sinners. Jesus told His friends, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you" (John 15:9). In other words, Jesus loves His friends with the same unbounded, unending affection as God the Father has for Christ Himself. The ultimate proof of Jesus' love is the way He died for His friends, to pay the penalty for their sins and give them eternal life with Him.

Still, the love Jesus showed during His time on earth might not help us much if Jesus' love could change. If Jesus were the sort of person Who likes you one day and turns against you the next, it wouldn't help much to know how He loved in the past. If Jesus' love could fade the way some lovey-dovey newlyweds lose their love after a few years and get divorced, then we might fear that in the future, the Lord doesn't love me as He once did. But Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, so His love is unchanging. It's as great as it has ever been. The Christ Who today reigns on the throne of