**IMMUTABLE GOD**

Sunday School Lesson 2

*The Attributes of God*

Malachi 3:6

6/6/2021

**Introduction:** In our first lesson on the attributes of God, we examined the fact that our God is self-existent. He does not have a creator. There was nobody before Him. He is the beginning. We also noted that He is self-existent because life dwells within Him. He is the source of life. He gave life to all living creatures on this planet. He is life itself. His self-existence is also proven by the fact that He is the Creator of all things. This truth demands that He be recognized as self-existent. He did not come from anyone or anything because all things come from Him. Lastly, we noted that His righteousness demands that He be self-existent. He commands us to worship Him above all. He hates pride. He teaches us to respect authority. It would be improper for us to worship Him if there were anyone higher. I am thankful that we worship the one and only true God. There is none other above Him. Not only do we serve a self-existent God, but we also serve an immutable God. That’s the attribute that we are going to look at this morning. He is One who never changes. This is another difficult attribute for us to grasp. Things in this world are constantly changing. People change. Circumstances change. Jobs change. Friendships change. There is change all around us. It is nice to know that there is One who does not change. Let us consider a few truths about the immutability of God.

1. **GOD WILL ALWAYS REMAIN IMMUTABLE IN HIS CAPABILITIES.**
2. **Notice that the strength of the Lord has never changed (Psalm 102:23-28; 71:9).** The psalmist encourages the people of Israel to praise the Lord in Psalm 102. He specifically notes that difference between himself and the Lord. He observed that he himself is a man who would become weakened in strength along the way of life. No matter how hard he tried to fight the loss of strength, the psalmist understood that it was inevitable for every man to deal with the weakness of the body. Generally speaking, strength in this world will fail. The strength of nations fails eventually. The strength of an economy fails. The strength of a machine fails. Time brings about weakness in this temporal world. Yet, there is One who does not change in strength over time. The Lord’s strength always remains the same. This is an important observation for us to make as there are many who doubt its truth today. The modernist scoffers are our present day declare what they perceive to be diminished strength. Even many Christians seem to view a different God today than the One found in the Word of God. His strength has not changed through the thousands of years that this planet has existed.
3. **Notice that the Word of God has not changed in Its capabilities (2 Peter 3:1-8; Luke 21:33; Hebrews 4:12).** It was mentioned last week that the Lord spoke the things of this world into existence. With just His speech, He was able to create something out of nothing. In this action, we recognize the unimaginable power of the Word of God. The capabilities of the Word of God have not changed from the time of creation to today. The Bible tells us that It is quick and powerful. The question is whether believers really recognize that we hold in our hands the same Word that was used to form this world. It is able to make something out of us in the same way that It made something out of this world. If more believers truly believed that the Word has not changed in Its capabilities, I believe that we would run to His Word and crave It more than we do. I know that we believe that the Word of God is eternal. I know that we believe that the Word of God is perfect. Let’s not limit what It can do in our lives, though, by rejecting that the Word of God is still as capable today as It has ever been.
4. **GOD WILL ALWAYS REMAIN IMMUTABLE IN HIS CHARACTER.**
5. **Notice that the Lord will always be a scepter of righteousness (Hebrews 1:8-12, 6:18; 2 Peter 2:4; Romans 5:12; Luke 10:18).** The righteousness of God is not something that is capable of change. This is different than the character of the angels. We know that there are many angels who have fallen alongside Satan. These were angels who were righteous in carrying out the Lord’s directives until they ultimately decided to change. We also know that man has fallen from how we were created. We were created without sin, yet we chose to disobey God. As a result, mankind was changed in its character. Sadly, we see even further that there are those who continue in Godly righteousness for a while, but then they return back to the bondage of sin again. I am thankful that we serve a God who is incapable of change when it comes to His righteousness. We never have to worry that God will be corrupted by sin. The Bible tells us that He is uncorruptible. It is not at all possible for that characteristic to change. It is not even possible for Him to lie because of His immutability. Mankind has long tried to corrupt the righteousness of God, but we have total confidence in His immutable righteousness.
6. **Notice that the Lord will never change in His goodness and love toward mankind (James 1:13-18; Zechariah 3:17; Malachi 3:6-7).** The first chapter of James deals with an important topic regarding the temptation of sin. There are those who seek to make themselves a victim by placing the blame for their sin at the feet of our Lord. James reminds us that God is not the One who tempts us to sin. This is because God is a giver of good gifts. Every good and perfect gift is from above. This quality of God’s goodness towards man has not changed since the foundations of this world. Keep in mind that we only love Him because He first loved us. This is an unchanging love. He planned the sacrifice of His Son before the world was ever formed. This tells us that His love and goodness for man is not reliant upon man’s response. God already knew that mankind would miserably fail, yet He still showed us goodness and love. This is because He is One that has no variableness nor shadow of turning. Even after God has carried out His final judgment on mankind, His love for us will still continue on without change.
7. **GOD WILL ALWAYS REMAIN IMMUTABLE IN HIS THOUGHTS AND PLANS.**
8. **Notice that God does not change His mind due to His foreknowledge (Hebrews 6:13-18; Isaiah 46:10, Ephesians 1:11; 1 Peter 1:2; Acts 2:23).** This is arguably the most challenged immutable quality of God. There are many modern scholars and even respectable preachers who have tried to argue against this one, but the Bible seems to be very clear on this issue. God does not change His thinking. He does not change His mind in the way that you and I so often do. Have you ever considered why it is that we change our minds? It is generally caused by an increase of knowledge. As we learn, consider, and experience new factors, we are apt to change our minds about various things. We also change our minds sometimes because we allow emotions to override proper decision making. How then could God ever change His mind if we know that He has foreknowledge of what is going to happen in EVERY situation of life? Do we believe that God is prone to make a decision based on momentary emotions? Certainly not! It is simply not possible then for Him to change His mind.
9. **Notice that it may appear from our perspective that God has changed His mind because we only think in terms of our understanding (Isaiah 55:7-11; Numbers 23:19-21; Jeremiah 18:7-10; Jonah 3:10).** The Bible has several places where personification is made of the Lord. This is done for our benefit to help in our understanding of Him. Yet, the Bible is also clear that His thoughts and ways are not like our thoughts and ways. If we forget this principle, then we are likely to misunderstand places in Scripture that refer to the Lord repenting of something that He had seemed to set out to do. Balak tried to get Balaam to curse Israel and bless him instead. The Lord told Balak that He would not do this because He is not like man in repenting. In verse 21, He clarifies that He would not curse Israel because Israel had not done anything at that point to warrant the Lord turning away from them. Jeremiah reveals that the Lord has pre-set conditions. If a nation or individual truly repents, the Lord may withhold judgment on them as He did with Nineveh. He pronounces judgment to cause the decision to be made, even if He already knows what decision that person or nation will make. Prayer may also seem to change the mind of God, but the truth is that He already knows what we will pray before we pray for it.
10. **GOD WILL ALWAYS REMAIN IMMUTABLE IN HIS TEACHINGS AND PURPOSE.**
11. **Notice that the Lord did not change the doctrine of God during His earthly ministry (Hebrews 13:7-9; Matthew 5:17; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Galatians 1:7-9).** There is no discord between the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. A house divide against itself cannot stand. The Lord Jesus Christ did not come to teach something different than that which had already been testified by the prophets of old. Instead, He came to fulfill the Law. He came to carry out that which the Law itself could not and was not intended to do. The Jewish leaders had strong accusations against Him, as they tried to claim that He was teaching a strange doctrine. We know that this is false. The Lord specifically commands us to watch out for strange doctrines because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Lord does not change, so His teaching does not change. It does not have to be modernized to fit in with an enlightened society. It does not need to be changed to be relevant today.
12. **Notice that the purpose of the Lord has never changed from before the foundations of the world (Ephesians 1:9-11, 3:11, 6:22; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 John 3:8; Romans 9:11-17; Isaiah 14:24-27).** The purpose of the Lord has been the same from the beginning to the end. He has always had a purpose for this earth. His purpose has always been for mankind to fellowship with Him. His purpose has always been to show us His power and glory and to be praised by men. His purpose has always been the redemption of man. The purpose of what He does has never changed. Thus, the will of the Lord does not change. He does that which He pleases to do. There is nothing that can or ever will happen that will change the purpose that He has for doing things. While we as people often lose or change our purposes, God always takes action with the same purpose in mind. We have an immutable God!