

A Stable Truth in an Unstable Time

Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

There are some verses so familiar to Christians (and so unfamiliar to others), that believers in Christ sometimes assume the verse’s meaning is known by all and so we end up glossing over the profundity. Why is it important to know that Jesus is *the same today* as He was *yesterday* and He will be *forever*?

I. The context of Hebrews 13 gives me a clue of the importance of this verse.

Context includes the verses that precede and those that follow. Let’s take a look at Heb. 13:7 and 9.

“Remember those who led you ... considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith” (verse 7). The people *who led you* might be those personally known by them (or us) or the people in Heb. 11. Principle: **The same Jesus who empowers others is the same Jesus who empowers me.**

If your life is different, if there is a lack of power, or an absence of purpose, or an indifference to the things of God, it is not the fault of Christ. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

“Do not be carried around by various and strange teachings ... be strengthened by grace” (verse 9).

Principle: **The same Jesus who started me in grace is the same Jesus who strengthens me in grace.**

Sometimes the older you get in the Christian faith the more you begin to criticize and judge those who have not progressed in your understanding, your commitment, your love for God. Be careful. Jesus doesn’t change one bit. He picked you up in the same manner He sustains you.

II. The culture of the Hebrew people gives me a clue of the importance of this verse.

Remember that the letter of Hebrews was written to believers in Christ who were all Jewish people. They were facing persecution from their families. Many of them were being banned from worship, and a few were threatened with imprisonment if they did not renounce their faith in Jesus Christ. The earliest persecution of Christians came not from the Romans; it came from the orthodox Jews. There is a temptation to measure God’s love, affection and goodness through temporal blessings. It is an axiom of the Christian life that there will be those times in your life that are very unsettling.

Principle: **Jesus Christ is the same in love and acceptance of me regardless of my faithfulness.**

This is particularly helpful for those who have been unfaithful to Him. He remains faithful.

“If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, since He cannot deny Himself” (II Timothy 2:13).

Principle: **Jesus Christ is the same in person and attributes toward me regardless of my faults.**

The Westminster Catechism says, “God is a spirit, whose being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.” It can be rightly said that the *immutability* of Christ defines every one of His other attributes, including knowledge.

III. The conflict in me gives me a clue of the importance of this verse.

I am speaking about the conflict that Paul writes about in Romans 7:15, “I do not understand what is going on in me, for I am not doing what I would like to do, but I end up doing the very thing I hate.” For anyone who can say “Amen” to this conflict, the truth of our text is a comfort in turbulent times. *“You can’t analyze God. He is too awesome, too big, too mysterious,”* writes C.S. Lewis, *“I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You Yourself are the answer.”* He’s the same at all times for all time.