

Fluid...and Fixed

A new year comes, and an old one departs. Much of the world concentrates on the gloomier aspects of the old year, and puts its hopes again in a new year. In another year, the ritual repeats. As we grow older, it seems to occur with frightening rapidity.

This time of year reminds us of the quickly passing nature of life. People who were alive last January 1 are no longer with us, and babies have been born in this year who scarcely were thought of then.

Events of the past year, some highly inconceivable, are now in the history books and almanacs of happenings. What occupied our minds as having supreme importance for a while have now receded into the far distance of the rearview mirror. Major things have become minor, while some seemingly insignificant things take on new importance as time passes. For example, the “important” news was that Napoleon was at the height of his power, conquering country after country in Europe. Meanwhile, babies were born that year who change history for many millions more. Lincoln was born in 1809, as was William Gladstone, who would serve as one of Britain’s most prominent Prime Ministers. Alfred, Lord Tennyson was born that year, too, as well as Charles Darwin, Frederic Chopin, and Louis Braille. What was sensational in 1809 paled in lasting importance in contrast to those “insignificant” births.

People and events come and go. Truly important things are hardly recognized in their times as they are happening. In the speed of 24 hour news cycles and people trying to gain our attention, it is hard to know exactly what is important.

God’s promises are also constant. If we imagined anything other than that, we would never speak of His promises—for they would not be promises anymore! If I thought that God’s promises would never be fulfilled or if He might change His promises, then I could say goodbye to the Bible, for it would be useless to me. By the way, **both** His *positive promises* of good to the righteous, and His *negative promises* of judgment to the wicked, are equally unchanged.

That God remains the same gives us great stability in unstable times. The world changes nearly overnight, leaving us disoriented and unsure

Then we remember that, as Solomon put it, “all is vanity.” From a human perspective, there is little that truly lasts. We engage ourselves earnestly in one pursuit or another, and then, just as earnestly, change our minds and follow after something else. Our minds and lives seem very fluid; indeed, fickle. We then wonder if anything is really worthwhile.

Charles Spurgeon wrote,

“The substance of mortal things is ever changing. The mountains with their snow-white crowns, doff their old diadems in summer, in rivers trickling down their sides, while the storm cloud gives them another coronation; the ocean, with its mighty floods, loses its water when the sunbeams kiss the waves, and snatch them in mists to heaven; even the sun himself requires fresh fuel from the hand of the Infinite Almighty, to replenish his ever burning furnace.”

That’s where God’s immutability comes in. **His essence** is the same as it always has been. While history passes, lives come and go, God remains the same. God is perpetually the same. He remains everlastingly the same. Age does not affect Him, nor have the ages wearied. He told Moses, “I Am who I am.”

Nor do **His attributes** change. His power, His wisdom, His justice, His mercy, and His grace are all as they ever have been. With every attribute of God, we may say, “He is always the same.”

And while our plans may change, **God’s plan** remains the same. One of my daughters is fond of saying, “I changed my mind.” God doesn’t change His mind, and from all eternity did determine to save men and women, boys and girls from their sin.

of on what to rely. God changes not, giving us a firm foundation on which to stand, and commits Himself to fulfilling His plan and His promises, giving us a sure hope no matter what comes!

Have a new year confident in Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever!