

# 2018

## Valley Bible Church Men's Breakfast Presentations

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## Change? Not God!

*I am the Lord, and I do not change.* Malachi 3:6 (NLT)  
*God is not a man who lies, or a son of man who changes His mind.*  
Numbers 23:19 (HCSB)

God doesn't – indeed cannot – change, because ...

- Changing requires time. God is eternal and exists outside the constraints of time.
- Changing implies getting better or getting worse, neither of which is possible with God because He is perfect.
- Changing is frequently the result of acquiring new information. God is omniscient, He already knows everything.

In Jonah 3:10 and other places, God *appears* – from a human standpoint – to repent (relent), to change His mind. This is a human attempt to explain the actions of an infinite God:

***When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.*** (NASB)

Did God change His mind regarding punishing the Assyrians? No, the Assyrians changed their minds about God! Here's an insightful comment from the classic book, *Knowing God*, by theologian J.I. Packer:

“When the Bible speaks of God changing His mind, it must be understood that the circumstance or situation has changed, not God. So when Exodus 32:14 and 1 Samuel 15:11-29 talk about God changing His mind, it is simply describing a change of dispensation, and outward dealings, toward man.”

Nothing surprises God. He always knew what He was going to do to cause humanity to fulfill His will. God does what He needs to do to cause humanity to fulfill His perfect plan.

***I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: My plan will take place, and I will do all My will.***  
Isaiah 46:10 (HCSB)

God is unchanging and unchangeable. We try to explain and understand God's actions in human terms, terms we can grasp. But God is not a man; He has no obligation to man.

Are there other things God cannot do? Does that mean He isn't omnipotent? We'll consider those questions in our next discussion. In the meantime, think about them!

VBC Men's Breakfast  
January 4, 2018

## Change? Not God!

(Part 2)

*I am the Lord, and I do not change.* Malachi 3:6 (NLT)  
*God is not a man who lies, or a son of man who changes His mind.*  
Numbers 23:19 (HCSB)

In Part 1, we considered several reasons why God doesn't – cannot – change. Are there other things God cannot do? Yes indeed!

God's attributes operate within His nature, which is perfect and holy. Thus, God ...

- Cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). It is against His nature to do so.
- Cannot cease to be God.
- Cannot do something inconsistent with His nature.
- Cannot violate His nature and existence.
- Cannot contradict Himself.
- Cannot set Himself up for failure.
- Cannot do anything that is morally evil (moral evil in the world derives from the choices of men and angels).

God's immutability doesn't mean He isn't God or that He isn't omnipotent. God's omnipotence must be consistent with what He is:

- God is sovereign. He can do whatever He wants to do whenever He wants to do it.
- God is omnipotent. He has the power to do whatever He wants to do in any way He wants to do it.
- God is omniscient. He knows how to do whatever He wants to do, knows what's right and best to do.
- God is good. He only does that which is right and good, whether we see it that way or not.

We should be very thankful that God doesn't change! Think of the disastrous possibilities if God were capricious. We couldn't depend on him being faithful to His promises; His dealings with us wouldn't be the same from day to day; He could even rescind our salvation!

**Bottom Line:** The Bible is clear that God does not change His mind, His will, or His nature.

VBC Men's Breakfast  
January 11, 2018

## Happy New Year ... Or Maybe Not!

Here we are, on the cusp of yet another new year. Many of us have experienced more “New Years” than we care to recall (or admit)!

Because of their infirmities, older Christians may sometimes wonder why they are still alive, why God keeps them on this earth.

We long for our Heavenly home. We grow weary of our health problems. Our mobility is declining, our mentation is declining, our vision and hearing are deteriorating. Our doctor visits and medical bills are increasing while our finances are going the other way, disproportionately.

If the paragraph above describes you, you may be asking, “Why doesn’t God just call me home?” Here’s the simple answer: Because He still has work for you to do here on earth. He’s sovereign – in total control. He could have taken you home many years ago, but He chose not to do so. There’s a reason why you’re still here.

There’s much you can do for God’s kingdom regardless of your age or present condition. Here are a few suggestions:

- You can pray for others, for our nation, and for God’s work around the world. *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.* James 5:16 (NIV)
- Using some of the many types of personal communication available today, you can tell friends, relatives, neighbors, and even strangers about Christ. Our world is populated with people who are headed for an eternity in Hell, separated from God. You can make a difference.
- You can encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ. There are many people who need your encouragement!
- Although your income may be meager, you can still help support the church financially. God will bless your financial gifts, regardless of their size. He’s looking at your heart attitude, not the size of your gift. He knows your financial status better than you do!
- You can offer sagacious counsel to others. You’ve experienced much in your lifetime. Share what you’ve learned with others, for their benefit.

Regardless of your age, if you’ve never trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin, be thankful you’re still on earth! Why? Because you still have the opportunity to trust Christ and be assured of spending eternity with Him. If you had died before now, you would be awaiting judgment and eternal, conscious torment in the Lake of Fire.

In His mercy, God is still offering you the opportunity to trust Christ. After you die, there will be no opportunity to change your mind about Christ. You need to do it now.

VBC Men’s Breakfast  
January 18, 2018

## 2018!

Here's a great verse to memorize at the start of the new year and practice throughout the year. This verse succinctly ties together love of God and love of man.

***He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?***

Micah 6:8 (ESV)

This verse describes three behaviors that God expects of us. We are to:

- Do justice
- Love kindness
- Walk humbly with our God

### Do Justice

Do we always – to the best of our ability and relying on God's enablement – do what's right and just and honest? Do we conduct ourselves and do business differently than the unsaved people of the world?

We live in an increasingly unjust world where Christians are personally subject to injustice because of their faith. This is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate true Christian character.

### Love Kindness

Do we love kindness; that is, are we committed to practicing kindness? How do we treat others? Are we kind even to those who aren't kind to us or deliberately mistreat us? Do we show mercy to those who don't deserve it?

Do we have compassion for others who are experiencing difficult times, especially for other believers? More than that, do we help them? (Galatians 6:10) Do unbelievers see unity and love among us?

### Walk Humbly with God

Are we learning humility? Do we conduct life in accordance with the will of God – walking humbly with Him, submitting to Him in every area of life, holding Him in respect and awe (fearing Him)?

**Bottom line:** Are there clear differences between your demeanor and that of the unsaved people of the world? Based on what people see in your life, what do they think of your Savior? It's an old but true cliché, "You may be the only Jesus some people will ever see."

VBC Men's Breakfast  
January 25, 2018

## Who Is Your Father?

*You are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.* John 8:44 (NLT)

Those are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, spoken to the religious leaders who were questioning Him. Harsh words, aren't they? But like everything Christ said, they are true words.

As indicated in the text verse, every person who has not received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin is a spiritual child of Satan.

Have you ever wondered why some people do the things they do? The answer is in this verse: It's because they *love to do the evil things he* (Satan, their father) *does*.

Why do people commit murder? Because their father *was a murderer from the beginning* and the child of Satan is doing the evil things his father does.

What about lying? Why do people lie? Because their father is *the father of lies* who *has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him*. Lying *is consistent with his character* – and theirs.

Unless a person trusts Christ as Savior and is adopted into God's family – thus changing their spiritual parentage – he or she will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire with their father, the devil (Revelation 20:10).

Does trusting Christ as Savior and being given a new life in Him mean a person will never again do evil things? Unfortunately not. The person who becomes a true child of God still has his old, sinful nature within and will continue to be tempted to sin, but now he has a means of being victorious over that old nature.

**Bottom Line:** Your eternal destiny – where you will spend eternity – depends on the answer to this question:

## Who Is Your Father?

You, and only you, can change the answer to that question. It's your choice.

VBC Men's Breakfast  
February 1, 2018

## 4 - 1 = 5

No, that's not the new math, it's God's math! God tells us that when we give, we'll receive more in return:

***Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*** Luke 6:38 (ESV)

The amount we give is not as important as why we give. Our motive should not be “give to get.” We'll consider that and other motives in a future discussion. In the meantime, think about why you give – or don't!

God is continuously giving to us: salvation, comfort, encouragement, life, and many other blessings, physical and spiritual. We'll discuss that also in a future presentation. We should give back, not out of obligation but with a heart of gratitude.

God doesn't want us to give grudgingly, He wants us to give out of love for and dedication to Christ, love for fellow believers, the joy of helping those in need, as well as the fact that it is simply the good and right thing to do.

All wealth belongs to God; giving Him a portion of our wealth acknowledges that fact. When we obey, we're trusting Him to provide and care for us.

When facing financial hardship, we may be tempted to hoard our resources, but giving in time of need, as well as in time of plenty, provides a great opportunity to demonstrate our trust in God.

You've probably heard it many times, but it's true: You can't outgive God.

***The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.***

2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV)

The principle taught in the verse above is simple: Invest a little, receive a little; invest much, receive much. It's your choice.

VBC Men's Breakfast  
February 8, 2018

## Are You A Robber?

*Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

Malachi 3:8-10 (ESV)

Is it possible to **rob** (steal from, cheat) God? Apparently so!

God spoke the above words to the nation of Israel through the Prophet Malachi. The mentioned “tithes” were used to support the Levites, the priests responsible for maintaining the Temple and Jewish religious life. When the tithes were withheld, the priests had to neglect their Temple duties and work at secular jobs. God viewed this as Israel robbing Him; that is, robbing His work. The basic principle is that God’s people are responsible to support God’s work. And so it is today.

We’re the losers if we steal from God. He’s the Creator and Owner of the universe; He doesn’t need our money, but He desires our obedience! But wait: It’s not “our” money.

In reality, if you’re a born-again Christian your money is God’s money. He made it possible for you to acquire it, by whatever legal means. You’re the caretaker, the manager, the steward of God’s money. That’s a great privilege – and a great responsibility. When you give to God, you’re returning a portion of what He’s given you.

The results of Israel’s **robbing** God is indicated in the next verse: God withheld His blessing and cursed their agriculture, their livelihood. But He also told them that if they would be faithful in giving ...

*I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts.*

Malachi 3:11 (ESV)

God challenged the people – and us – to *put me to the test*, to support His work, with the result that *I will ... open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

The message of Malachi 3:8-11 is simple: We miss God’s blessing when we **rob** Him by not supporting His work.

## Are You A Robber?

VBC Men’s Breakfast  
February 15, 2018

## Separation

***Listen! The LORD's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. It's your sins that have cut you off (separated you) from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.***

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NLT)

God spoke these words to His people, Israel, through the prophet Isaiah. God was telling Israel that they were in captivity because of their sin. This is a universal truth applying to all people. We are all sinners and our sin **separates** us from God. We may not be physical captives, as were the Israelites, but we are spiritual captives, in bondage to sin and Satan.

Because we are born sinners, **separation** from God is the natural, from-birth condition (state) of every person. The only way to remedy that dire situation is to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin.

***The LORD's arm is not too weak to save you.*** God is willing and desirous and able to save – to rescue from eternal condemnation – every person who comes to Him for salvation. He sent His Son to pay your sin debt.

Salvation is available to you but it has to be personally received – claimed, appropriated by a deliberate act of your will – to become a possession.

If you choose to continue rejecting Christ's offer of salvation and thus remain **separated** from Him, that **separation** will continue forever.

“Scripture sees Hell as self-chosen. Hell appears as God's gesture of respect for human choice. All receive what they actually choose, either to be with God forever, worshiping Him, or without God forever, worshiping themselves.”

From J. I. Packer's *Concise Theology: A Guide To Historic Christian Beliefs*

***Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.*** If you haven't trusted Christ as Savior, there may come a time in your life when God will turn away and not listen to your plea for salvation. Don't ignore this warning! There will be no opportunity to trust Christ as Savior after death (Hebrews 9:27), only eternal ...

## Separation

VBC Men's Breakfast  
February 22, 2018