**EDT Sun 18th May. Bible College Class. Hebrews 13:8**

**The Unchanging Christ**

**Hebrews 13:1-16**

* **Jesus Christ eternally the same – yesterday, today, and for ever.**
* **No verb tenses!**

**BIRTHDAYS**

* **Let me tell you about birthdays.**
* **Easy question.**
* **Least common birthday?**
* **29th February VA**
* **Who can guess what the date of the most common birthday is?**
* **It’s actually my wife’s birthday:**
* **9th September VA**
* **Actually many people have 1st January as a date due to some countries not keeping great records a few decades ago.**
* **My birthday is 30th September.**
* **Make a note and make sure you send the cards and gifts to me on time.**
* **Whose birthday is it today?**
* **Tomorrow?**
* **Yesterday?**
* **Well anyway I want to talk to you about Eternal One who doesn’t have a birthday.**
* **Gen 1.1 In the beginning God.**
* **The Eternal Son**
* **The Lord Jesus Christ**
* **But wasn’t Jesus born in Bethlehem?**
* **Isn’t that what Christmas was all about?**
* **Yes, but what I’m talking about is the One who said, “Before Abraham was, I AM.”**

**THE ONE WHO SAVES**

* **He always has been. The Eternal Son of God. 2nd person of the Trinity.**
* **Ponder His mighty deeds in Creation, atonement, resurrection.**
* **He is now available for us to call upon. He ever lives to make intercession for us.**
* **He always will be.**
* **God never faileth.**
* **He is returning to judge the quick and the dead.**

***“To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?”* Isaiah‬**

* **“Rather, Jesus Christ is yesterday and to-day the same; yea, also for ever.”**
* **Context Hebrews v7-9**
* **Don’t follow what you followed before.**
* **Don’t be deceived into following something or someone else.**
* **Follow the One who is always the same.**
* **The Rock of our Salvation.**
* **People before in OT lived and died in the faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. Looking Forward. We look back.**

**Specifics:**

* **It is not only about the Eternal Son.**
* **It is not only about God who had ever been.**
* **It is specifically about the human Christ being the same to all His followers. Immanuel – God with us in Human form.**
* **It is founded on the fact of His deity.**
* **“He is the unchanging Jesus because He is the divine Son.”**

**Yesterday**

* **The yesterday of His grace to past generations.**
* **He helped people years ago. Because He doe not change He can help you now.**
* **Psalm 27v9. *Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.***
* **Thou hast been my Help; leave me not, neither forsake me,’ is the prayer that ought to be taught us by every remembrance of what Jesus Christ has been to us.**
* **Remember the time in your experience when Jesus Christ was most tender, most near, most sweet, most mysterious, most soul-sufficing for you, and be sure that He stands beside you, ready to renew the ancient blessing and to surpass it in His gift.**

**UNCERTAINTY**

* **Consider how changeable our lives are.**
* **Our lives change all the time.**
* **Health, relationships, futures.**
* **Our bodies change.**
* **Christ remains the same person.**
* **His wounds are still there, reminding us of the sacrifice He made.**
* **The name of His people is still engraved in His hands.**
* **He cannot love you more. He will not love you less.**
* **Think of the surprises the last year has brought.**
* **Every day there is news. VA**
* **It’s never exactly the same.**
* **Kingdoms and Governments change.**
* **What happened to you today?**
* **Was it exactly the same as yesterday?**
* **Of course not.**
* **Every day is different.**
* **Sometimes good, sometimes bad.**
* **So, we cannot rely on tomorrow being the same.**
* **We cannot put our trust in this life.**
* **Just hoping for the best.**
* **“Things will work out.”**
* **They may not.**
* **Without Christ they definitely won’t in the end.**
* **Examples of uncertainty in scripture:**
* **Abraham - leave! Unknown land**
* **Many of you in the next 5-10 years will be moving house, leaving home.**
* **Job - lost everything, didn’t understand why.**
* **David - anointed king then spent years running from Saul. An uncertain future.**
* **Disciples - didn’t understand Jesus’ plan, especially when he spoke about His death.**
* **Some of us have suffered bereavement in recent times.**
* **Those ones who are close to us will one day go the way of all flesh.**
* **Human life is fleeting and fragile.**
* **Who else can we look to for unchanging comfort in such times but Christ?**
* **We feel the smart of our loss.**
* **But Christ is there for us to call upon.**
* **What does “today” mean?**
* **Sounds like a stupid question right?**
* **We all know what day it is.**
* **Today is Sunday.**
* **But what about taking a bigger look at ”today”.**
* **What if it meant your life?**
* **To God, your life is like a single day.**
* **A brief moment.**
* **James calls it “a vapour”**
* **Not much time.**
* **It will soon be over.**
* **Today is the day of salvation.**
* **Take the opportunity today to come to Christ.**
* **Trust Him, love Him today.**
* **Not tomorrow, for you know not what tomorrow will bring.**
* **There may be no tomorrow.**
* **The world may be done with Christ and rejects Him and His Gospel.**
* **But Christ has not changed.**
* **He is ever glorious, ever**
* **The old Gospel has not changed.**
* **There is no other Gospel.**
* **John Knox’s Gospel is my Gospel.**
* **Spurgeon’s Gospel is my Gospel.**
* **Luther’s Gospel is my Gospel.**
* **Pastor’s Gospel is my Gospel.**
* **What will you do when all other helpers fail?**
* **What if you’ve read all the books and heard all the sermons and learned your catechism?**
* **Go to Jesus Christ, He yet has more for you.**
* **The depths of His wisdom and love are unsearchable.**
* **The promises haven’t changed.**
* **If God feels distant, who moved?**
* **Do not fear change.**
* **Prophet priest and king forever.**
* **Hebrews 13:8-15. Exhortation to hold aloof from unchristian doctrines and ritual observances.**
* **Christ is our rock which changes not.**
* **The winds and rain may come, but our house is built upon the rock.**
* **This life has troubles, like being on a stormy sea.**
* **But this text is a solid rock.**
* **This text is dry land.**
* **It can be relied upon.**
* **He is the same.**
* **“Be thou the same too!” said Spurgeon. Imitate Jesus Christ**

**WARNING**

* **Don’t imagine He will change.**
* **His standards are always the same.**
* **He is always holy.**
* **He won’t suddenly open the gates of heaven to those who have rejected Him all their lives.**
* **Old Testament believers like Malachi knew this:**

**“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” Malachi‬**

* **New Testament believers like James knew this:**

**“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James‬**

* **Some say well other things stay the same.**
* **Some claim your data can be kept uncorrupted forever.**
* **I think if you’ve ever lost a file or a photo you know this isn’t true.**
* **I live in Elephant & Castle where many people lived in the sprawling Heygate Estate. VA**
* **It was built in 1974.**
* **By 2014 it was gone. VA**
* **40 years, the home you lived in.**
* **Now it’s gone.**
* **Personal experience: university.**
* **Not only is the building gone.**
* **It changed its name twice!**
* **Jesus Christ is at the absolute centre of the Bible, but especially the book of Hebrews.**
* **What is at the centre of your life?**
* **Is it school?**
* **Family?**
* **Friends?**
* **Those are all good things but they shouldn’t be the centre.**
* **Some land up with terrible things at the centre of their life.**
* **Alcohol**
* **Drugs**
* **Pornography**
* **But do you know what the three most common things are that people put at the centre of their lives?**
* **It’s: Me, myself and I.**
* **‘I am my own master.’**
* **‘Believe in yourself,’ we are told.**
* **Christ is the anchor of the soul.**
* **All the cults attack the doctrine of Christ.**
* **Their Christology is flawed.**
* **JWs say**
* **Mormons say**