

The Unchanging Christ

Introduction

Text: Mark 4:35-39 (Scripture Reading)

1. **We must take Jesus as He is if we expect Him to still the tempests in our life.**
2. **We will never find the peace and serenity that only Christ offers us if we seek to change Him.**

Christ Can Change Us, But We Can't Change Him

1. **Jesus is perfect.**

Hebrews 5:8-9 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. **And having been perfected**, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

2. **Jesus is the same and will never change.**

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

3. **Jesus is unchangeable.**

Hebrews 7:24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

4. **There are many who would accept Jesus if they could just modify Him somehow.**

- A. **Many want Christ to fit their own mold, but not to fit His.**

5. Jesus knows us and sees all things.

John 2:25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for **He knew what was in man.**

Revelation 2:18-19 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: "**I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience;** and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

6. We cannot change, modify, streamline, altar, or dictate Him.

7. Many have and continue to try to change what God has done.

8. When we truly love God, we will love and respect God's plan.

9. Here are some ways that people have tried to change Jesus:

Changes Some Would Like to Make

1. Christ and the Godhead.

A. Too many want to believe in God, but they want to degrade Christ to just a prophet.

John 1:1-3

Hebrews 1:8 But to the Son He says: "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER; A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM.

Matthew 1:23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, "**God with us.**"

2. Christ and His claims.

A. Many do not respect who Christ is and what He claims.

John 8:23 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

3. Christ and His sinless life.

A. Christ was without sin, however, He became sin for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

1 Peter 2:21-22 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH";

4. Christ and His cross.

A. Unfortunately, there are those who see no sense in the fact that one had to die for mankind.

1) He died a cruel death for us – He gave His all!

John 10:17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Luke 24:46-47 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, (47) and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

5. Christ and His resurrection.

A. The resurrection of Christ is the focal point of Christianity. He overcame death so that we too can live with Him.

Romans 1:4

1 Peter 1:3

John 11:25-26

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

6. Christ and His church.

A. There are those who want Jesus, but not the church.

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

7. Christ and His authority.

Matthew 28:18

A. Some had rather go by their feelings, creeds, or what the preacher says.

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

8. Christ and what He says about salvation.

A. Many people have their own personal feelings about salvation and being in heaven.

1) There are many scriptures that teach what one MUST do in order to have salvation. Let's just look at a few where Jesus said some things:

B. We have to listen to and abide in the teaching of Christ.

Matthew 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for **if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**"

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**

Matthew 10:32-33 "Therefore **whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.** But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Mark 16:16 **He who believes and is baptized will be saved;** but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Conclusion

1. **One cannot change Jesus. So then, all one can do is change himself to align themselves with our Savior.**
2. **We MUST be willing to take Jesus as He is!**
3. **Does the Christ of the Bible appeal to you?**
 - A. **If not, then Jesus is not going to change to appeal to you.**
4. **When many of His very own disciples turned to walk with Him no more, He did not change to please them.**

Hebrews 5:8-9 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

