

I. Introduction and review.

II. Jesus never changes. v. 8

- A. How does this fit into the immediate context?
1. Church leaders may come and go, but Jesus reigns forever. v. 7,5b 7:23-24
 2. Don't be carried away by strange new doctrines. Cling to the unchanging truth of the immutable Christ, as taught to you by your faithful leaders. v. 9
- B. In what sense is Jesus the same (immutable)?
1. His immutability implies His deity. 1:10-12 Isa. 44:6
 2. While He grew up as to His human nature (5:8 Luke 2:52), His Divine nature never changes. Mal. 3:6 I Sam. 15:29
 3. He is immutable, but not immobile. He acts and reveals Himself in space and time. 1:1-2 8:7ff 4:15 Phil. 2:5-11
 4. He is immutable as to His Person and attributes.
 5. He is unchanging in His way of working. I Co. 1:21-23
 6. His doctrine always remains the same. 1:2 II Tim. 3:16-17 Acts 4:12 John 14:6
 7. He is absolutely reliable. 13:5b-6
 8. He is our stable Rock who keeps us from being led astray. 13:5-6
- C. What is significant about these time periods? Rev. 1:4,8
1. *Yesterday*: God the Eternal Son, Who created all things, identified with us by becoming a man. He fulfilled the law by living a perfect life; then died on the cross as our substitute making propitiation for our sins; and was raised from the dead. 2:14-17 7:26 9:24-28 10:12
 2. *Today*: He sits at the Father's right hand interceding for us. Because of Jesus' priestly work we have been made holy and have direct access to God's presence. 7:25 9:24 10:19ff 4:14-16 2:18 13:5b-6
 3. *Forever*: He will come back to establish His everlasting Kingdom (city) in which we will dwell and reign with Him forever. 9:28 12:28 10:37 13:14

III. Don't be led astray by strange teachings. v. 8 Acts 17:20-21 II Tim. 4:3

- A. As Jesus never changes, neither does His infallible, all-sufficient, and complete Word. II Tim. 3:16-17 Heb. 1:1-2 I Pe. 1:23 Jude 1:3 Gal. 1:6-9 I Tim. 6:3-5
- B. What kinds of varied and strange teachings threaten the church today?
1. Some claim ongoing revelation, in spite of the fact that God has spoken finally and decisively in Christ, as recorded in the New Testament. 1:1-2
 2. Some add human traditions to the Word of God. Mt. 15:3
 3. Some want to go back to an earthly priesthood, sanctuary, altar and sacrifice; thereby invalidating the New Covenant. 10:14,18
 4. Some openly reject biblical teaching.
 5. Some "churches" are capitulating to our culture's rejection of "politically incorrect" biblical teaching on moral and doctrinal issues.
 6. Just because someone holds office in a church does not mean he can be trusted. Acts 20:30-31a II Co. 11:13-14
- C. Their problem had something to do with ceremonial foods. v. 9b
1. The ceremonial regulations of the Old Covenant have passed away. 9:10 Mark 7:19 Col. 2:17 I Tim. 4:3-5

2. Following a particular diet will not benefit your soul. Col. 2:16-23 I Co. 6:13 8:8
Ex. 12:8-9 Lev. 19:5-6 22:29-30
3. You need to be strengthened in the inner self by God's grace: Soul food! 10:16,22
4:16 I Ti. 4:8 Ro. 14:17 Jo. 6:53 II Th. 2:16-17

IV. We have an altar which is outside of Judaism. v. 10-14

- A. What kind of altar (place of sacrifice) do we have? v. 10a 10:11-12,14 9:25ff
 1. *Altar* refers to the completed sacrificial work of Christ. 10:12,14
 2. The altar under the old covenant portrayed in type what Jesus was to accomplish in His High Priestly work on the cross. 9:23
 3. Earthly altars could not purify worshipers internally. 10:1-4 9:9-10 II Tim. 3:5
 4. Because Christ's work is complete, there is no longer an earthly altar or sacrifice.
 5. We feed spiritually upon the completed work of Christ. v. 10c John 6:53

- B. Those who continue in the outmoded earthly sacrificial system cannot partake of the true and final sacrifice. v. 10b
 1. Some find it hard to leave earthly religion behind.
 2. Those who seek to approach God through Judaism are cut off from Christ. Ga. 5:2
 3. Those who seek to approach God through earthly priests, sanctuaries, and sacrifices are also cut off from Christ.

- C. The treatment of the sacrificial animals on the Day of Atonement typifies the work of Christ. v. 11-12
 1. The carcasses of the sacrificial animals were taken outside the camp and burned there. v. 11 Lev. 4:12,21 16:27
 2. Jesus suffered a shameful death for our sins outside the gates of Jerusalem. v. 12
9:26 12:2 Mt. 27:32f 21:39 John 19:20 Gal. 3:10-13 II Co. 5:21

- D. Holiness is found, not by going back into Jerusalem (Judaism), but by standing outside with Christ. v. 13
 1. Because Jesus atoned for sin outside of Jerusalem, holiness is not to be found in Judaism.
 2. Nor is holiness to be found in any other earthly city, altar, sacrifice, or priesthood.
 3. You can only draw near to God through Jesus Christ's finished work.
 4. When you stand with Jesus, you will be treated with reproach by the world and the religious establishment. 11:26 Jo. 17:15-18

- E. Our home-city is not an earthly city, but a heavenly one. v. 14 11:10,14 12:27ff

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. Is there any sense in which Jesus has changed? v. 8
2. In what sense is He unchanging (immutable)? v. 8
3. What strange teachings concerned the author? v. 9
4. What strange teachings threaten believers today? v. 9
5. What altar do we have? v. 10
6. Who cannot eat at our altar? Why? v. 10
7. How is Jesus like the animals whose bodies were disposed of outside the camp? v. 11-12
8. What does the location of Jesus' death say about the way we must approach God? v. 12-13
9. What treatment can we expect if we follow Christ? v. 13
10. How can we endure such reproach? v. 14