

GOD HAS NOT AND WILL NOT CHANGE

Having been raised in northeastern Ohio I always cheered for the Cleveland Browns. They were as permanent in my life as the sun rising and setting each day, but back around the early 1990's the news came out that the Cleveland Browns were moving to Baltimore. Myself, along with everybody else couldn't understand this. Every Sunday 80,000 people filled the old stadium. But, fortunately for me, things like this don't make or break my life.

There are a lot of people who are looking for something that is secure in their life. They are experiencing the lack of trust in another person's love, or health, etc. They need to know what you and I know and what Malachi knew when God said, "I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6) This is truth for any generation, any age, any nationality, any situation.

Here are God's first words in the book of Malachi. Malachi 1:2a, "I have loved you." It can't get any plainer than that. God did not say, "I did love you," or "I now do," or "I shall love you," but His words picture a constant, never changing love that has always been and always will be.

When was the last time you asked God if He really loves you? It was probably sometime this past week. You asked it when life did not meet your expectations, when your prayer was not answered the way you wanted it answered, or not when you wanted it. I'll bet God wants to shake you and say, "Wake up! Open your eyes! I kept my promise. I created you and I died for you! I have always loved you and that has never changed nor will it ever change." It's not God's love that changes. It's yours and mine.

The story is told of a monastery in Portugal, perched high on a 3,000 foot cliff and accessible only by a terrifying ride in a swaying basket. The basket is pulled with a single rope by several strong men, perspiring under the strain of the fully loaded basket. One American tourist who visited the site got nervous halfway up the cliff when he noticed that the rope was old and frayed. Hoping to relieve his fear he asked, "How often do you change the rope?" The monk in charge replied, "Whenever it breaks!"

Isn't it great to know that some things in life are constant and that they will not change? How many things are constant? When you stop and think about it, it is only the love, greatness and faithfulness of God. Some things we can be pretty sure of such as the rising and setting of the sun, but even that is questionable.

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