UNCHANGING TRUTHS IN THE MIDST OF A CHANGING WORLD!

Introduction:

A. We Live In A Changing World!
   1. Some of that change is a real blessing!

   2. Examples:
      a. Old dial phone on a party line to a direct land line, to a cell phone, to a smart phone.
      b. Horse to a wagon to a Model T to an amazing car, to an airplane, to an SST, to a spaceship.
      c. An outhouse to an indoor toilet, to an “en suite!”
      d. Pencil, to a typewriter, to a computer.

   3. What is amazing -- many in this audience cannot even relate to an old dial phone on a party line, getting about in a wagon or a Model T, an outhouse, or doing everything with a pencil.

B. A Lot Of The Above Changes Are Wonderful!

C. However, There Are Changes That Are SO Disconcerting!

D. Many Christians Are Appalled As They See Things Constantly Sliding Further And Further From Godliness And Holiness!

E. Some Become SO Distraught That They Think The World Is “Going Down The Tubes!”

F. Some Become SO Distraught That They Think “The Sky Is Falling!”

G. One Of The GREAT THINGS About Our God, The Truth, And The Church -- There ARE “Unchanging Truths!”
I. (Slide #2) Unchanging Truths:
   A. (Slide #3) God Is Unchanging!
      1. He is Holy!
         a. Is. 6:3 “And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the
            LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’”
         b. Ps. 111:9 “Holy and awesome is His name.”
      2. He is Immutable -- Unchangeable!
         a. Nu. 23:19,20 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man,
            that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He
            spoken, and will He not make it good?”
         b. Js. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and
            comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation
            or shadow of turning.”
      3. He Is Sovereign!
         a. Jer. 10:10 “But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the
            everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations
            will not be able to endure His indignation.”
         b. Dt. 10:14 “Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD
            your God, also the earth with all that is in it.”
         c. Dt. 10:17 “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords,
            the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes
            a bribe.”
         d. Rom. 14:11 “For it is written: ‘As I live, says the LORD, Every knee
            shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.’”
   B. (Slide #4) Jesus Is Unchanging!
      1. He is a Divine Being!
         a. Jn. 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
            and the Word was God.”
         b. Mt. 1:22,23 “So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was
            spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 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. He is the Christ!
         a. Mt. 16:15-17 “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’
            16Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the
            living God.’ 17Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon
            Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My
            Father who is in heaven.’”
         b. Ac. 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God
            has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
         c. Heb. 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
3. He is the Perfect High Priest!
   a. Heb. 7:24 “But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.”
   b. Under the Law of Moses, the High Priest served until he died; then he was replaced by another man in the family of Aaron.
   c. Heb. 7:26 “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;”

4. He is still THE KING on His Heavenly Throne!
   a. Ac. 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
   b. I Tim. 6:15 “which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,”

5. Jesus is STILL THE Way, THE Truth, And THE Life, And The Only Way To The Father!
   a. Jn. 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
   b. His Blood is still able to cleanse from ALL repented sin! I Jn. 1:7
   c. Christ is still the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him! Heb. 5:9

C. (Slide #5) The Holy Spirit Is Unchanging!
   1. He is STILL the Third Member Of The Godhead!

   2. He has been and still is the revealer and protector of the revelation that He made known to mankind.

   3. He and Christ are intercede for Christians at the Throne of Heaven!
   a. Rom. 8:27 “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”
   b. Rom. 8:34 “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”
   c. Heb. 7:25 “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
D. (Slide #6) The Truth Is Unchanging!

1. Ps. 33:11 “The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.”

2. Ps. 119:89 “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.”

3. The Bible Is The Inspired, Infallible, And Authoritative Word Of God!
   a. II Tim. 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,"
   b. It was revealed by the Holy Spirit! I Cor. 2:10-12; Eph. 3:1-4

4. It is the Message that will convict and bring hearts to change!
   a. Lk. 8:11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”
   b. Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

5. It can be read, handled aright, understood, and obeyed!

E. (Slide #7) The Church Is Unchanging!

1. It is the spiritual “home of the saved!” Eph. 5:23

2. Those who are saved by the Blood of Christ are immediately added to the Lord’s Spiritual Body, the Church! Ac. 2:47

3. The Church is the consummation of the grand Scheme Of Redemption conceived in the mind of God in eternity and established by Christ.

4. The Church is still the spiritual Body of Christ!

5. It Is His Kingdom Over Which He Reigns!
   a. Mt. 16:15-19 “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 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. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’”
   b. Eph. 3:10,11 “to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
   c. Col. 1:13 “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,”
d. Mt. 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

6. We are in the process of selecting more elders for Washington Avenue!
   a. This is an important and inspiring process.
   b. New elders do not come into that role to “change the doctrine of the Church!” THEY HAVE NO SUCH RIGHT; they have an obligation to uphold Heaven’s revelation!
   c. Elders have NO RIGHT to hire preachers to “change the direction” of the congregation’s beliefs or practices!!! Elders who allow that are not qualified shepherds to protect the Body of Christ!
   d. As we look for new leaders, we must protect this congregation so we have a safe and sound place to worship for this generation and for the next generation!

G. (Slide #8) Worship Is Unchanging!
   1. God has always given man His expectations for worship under the Dispensation that those people lived.

   2. Today: “Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.’” Jn. 4:21-24

   3. Commands and examples of First Century Christians show us that worship in the Church must include collective prayer, the Lord’s Supper, a contribution, A Capella singing, and feasting upon the Word of God.

H. (Slide #9) Holiness Is Unchanging!
   1. Eph. 4:22-24 “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

   2. Is. 5:20 “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

   3. Phil. 2:15 “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”
II. (Slide #10) The Amazing Blessings Of Having And Respecting “Unchanging Truths In The Midst Of A Changing World!”

A. (Slide #11) Loyal Christians And Loyal Congregations Exalt The Godhead To Their Rightful Place -- GOD!

1. We respect our place in the big scheme of things -- GOD is on the Throne, JESUS is the King and Messiah; the Holy Spirit has revealed the unchanging Truth!

2. We respect Them; we see our place as protectors of Their Truths; we have NO Intent of changing Their Authorized Will!

3. We “Stand In Awe Of Them!”

B. (Slide #12) Christians In Congregations That Respect The Unchanging Truths Have So Much Stability And Security!

1. When Christ is honored, brethren love Him and His Will and stability results!

2. Eph. 3:14-19 “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

3. Col. 2:1-10 “For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”
4. Faithful, Godly elders protect those congregations!
   a. Ac. 20:28-31 “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. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”
   b. Tit. 1:9-13 “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. 10 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, ‘Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.’ 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,”

5. Blessings when leaders and members discipline their own hearts and congregations determine to be loyal to Christ!
   a. Because faithful Christians and loyal congregations of Christ know these things and are committed to them, we face a bright future.
   b. There are still thousands and thousands of people who are content to worship the Lord in the same way that Christians worshiped in New Testament times
   c. There are still thousands and thousands of people who are content to speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where the Bible is silent! I Pet. 4:11
   d. There are still thousands and thousands in spiritual Israel (the church) who have ‘not bowed the knee to Baal.” I Ki. 19:18

6. Knowledge of these facts keeps brethren from being paranoid, cynical, and isolationist!
C. **(Slide #13)** Christians And Congregations That Respect The Unchanging Truths Will Not Be Swayed By Every New Idea And Change That Arises!
   1. Those revealed Truths are SO protective of brethren and congregations!

   2. Eph. 4:11-16 “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

   3. We must be like the Bereans: “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” Ac. 17:11

_Conclusion:_

   A. Yes, We Live In An Ever-Changing, Yes, A Rapidly-Changing World!

   B. As Christians We Appreciate And Use Those Changes That Bless Our Lives And That Help Us Be More Productive.

   C. However, In The Midst Of World That Believes It Can Change Religion And Change God, We Commit Ourselves To Respect Of God And His Will -- “To Unchanging Truths In The Midst Of A Changing World!”

   D. **(Slide #14)** “To Christ Be Loyal And Be True!”