

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

THE UNCHANGING GOD

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART ELEVEN OF SIXTY FOUR*

To be able to put our complete trust in God we need to have some understanding of Him. James describes God as "the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning" (James 1:17). James earlier described a certain type man as being "unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). The religious world is a mass of confusion as are the moral, political, and economic realms. Yet in this all there is still God "with whom can be no variation."

James described God as unchanging in the context of His goodness. "Every good gift...is from above" (James 1:17). Jesus said, "None is good, save one, even God" (Luke 18:19). Since God is good and unchangeable, we can put our complete trust in Him. Abraham exclaimed, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25). His faith can be our faith.

God is the Father of lights and it appears James is comparing God to His heavenly creations. While the lights of heaven rise and set, change, twinkle, fade, and disappear; their Creator remains ever constant, ever good. The thought of an unchanging God Who does not fluctuate in His goodness to man is a source of courage when we can say

"Yet in the maddening maze of things,
And tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed trust my spirit clings
I know that God is good." (Whittier)

God's gifts are always good. In giving physical blessings, He is constant. In giving spiritual blessings, even wisdom (James 1:5), He does not fail. Knowing God's nature is unchanging and that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, we can ask in faith (James 1:6); we can trust and obey.

Are you building your life on the ever drifting sand, or on the Rock that for ever shall stand?

(B. G. Echols)

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