

September Anniversaries

(24) Randy & Ann Burns (25) Josh & Sarah Hamilton  
(29) Eddie & Carla Rogers

September Birthdays

(2) Bobby Moore (5) Trever Calvert (6) Lesa Daniel (8) Joey Calvert (8) Jason Gilbreath (9) Levi Bishop (12) David Staggs (13) Josh Hamilton (13) Andrea Runnels (16) Kayla Hudgins (17) Beau Hamilton (18) Benjamin Blake (23) Katherine Rawdon (23) Judy Voss (24) Mike Gilbreath (24) Boone Runnels

September Teaching Schedule

<b><u>Sunday 1st(LABOR DAY)</u></b> <b>10AM-Clint DeFrance</b> <b>2PM-Young Speakers</b>	<b><u>Wednesday 4th</u></b> <b>Singing</b>
<b><u>Sunday 8th</u></b> <b>10AM-Aaron Battey</b> <b>5PM-Jordan Calvert</b>	<b><u>Wednesday 11th</u></b> <b>Mark Purcell</b>
<b><u>Sunday 15th</u></b> <b>10AM-Danny Burns</b> <b>2PM-William Davis</b>	<b><u>Wednesday 18th</u></b> <b>Nathan Davis</b>
<b><u>Sunday 22nd</u></b> <b>10AM-John Daniel</b> <b>5PM-Trever Calvert</b>	<b><u>Wednesday 25th</u></b> <b>William Davis</b>
<b><u>Sunday 29th</u></b> <b>10AM-Aaron Battey</b> <b>5PM-Josh Purcell</b>	

**CHAPEL GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**September 2019**

**God Does Not Change: Part 1**

The book of **Malachi** is the last book in the Old Testament and its prophecy came about one hundred years after God's people returned to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity. That was a time of great joy and great relief, to return to their homeland and rebuild the city and the temple. But, a hundred years is a long time. It may not seem like it when you consider the whole span of Bible history, but from the perspective of a life or a particular generation of people or the history of a nation, a hundred years is really a long time. A lot can change in a hundred years. Attitudes can shift, things can be forgotten and can go by the wayside. Sure enough, that was the case with Israel.

In this period of one hundred years, a lot had changed. Whatever excitement there might've been at returning and rebuilding was now gone. The nation had reverted to its old self. The services of the temple had become common and profane. The nation was once again in sorry shape, spiritually, and they blamed God for their troubles. Despite His forbearance, they had the audacity to accuse God of not loving or caring about them. And once again, the fires of God's judgment were smoldering, except that there was one thing that kept Him from destroying them altogether. Read with me.

**Malachi 3:6 "For I am the LORD, I change not;**

**therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”**

God made a covenant, promising that a Messiah would come from their people and bring salvation to the world through them. God did not destroy them because the promises that were made to them still had to be fulfilled through them in Christ, and God would not break His word. They deserved to be destroyed, but God did not destroy them because of His covenant.

The prophet Balaam, knowing how capable he himself was of deceit and knowing how he could be tempted by bribery to change from one course to another, said this of God:

**Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”**

God does not change. We can't think of God in terms of humans. People change their minds, attitudes, sometimes their personality over time. But God never changes, and He succinctly states that on more than one occasion in His word: *I do not change*. But not only *does* He not change, but He *cannot* change. Today, we'll study what it means to serve an unchanging God.

It's difficult for us to imagine one who never changes because everything in this world changes with the passing of enough time. Everything about our lives is changing from moment to moment, day to day, and year to year. Even the earth and the heavens are changing. Things that look to us like they never change are surely, slowly, and constantly being reshaped by the forces of time.

**Psalm 102:25-27 “Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.”**

Everything from the microscopic atom to the sun's solar system and universe are all in a constant state of flux, transition, and change. Everything God has created is changeable, but God does not change. James made this contrast.

**James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights (speaking of heavenly lights: the sun that rises and sets and the stars that are born and later burn out), with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”**