APPROVED CHANGE

Throughout Scriptures there is an oft-repeated fact – the Almighty God does not change!(Numbers 23:19; Psalm 119:89; Malachi 3:6; Romans 11:29).

Even though this Truth is well founded in Scriptures there is another paradoxical truth – God "changed" has many times throughout His historical dealings with man (Genesis 6:6,7; Jonah 3:9,10). Although there appears to be a contradiction in these passages, there is actually complete consistency.

Even before the foundations of the world were established, the Almighty God had a perfect plan to redeem mankind from sin and to provide the blessings of eternal fellowship (Ephesians 1:3-5). The unchangeable nature of is evident in the way He refused to allow anything to detract from His goal.

Throughout history the changeless God allowed "changes" to occur. These "changes" were necessary in development of the scheme of redemption, so that it could reach the point of completion.

The changes God allowed are many, but look at a few of the more prominent ones.

❖ God "changed" the ruling dispensations from the Patriarchs, to the great Lawgiver Moses, to the Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).

❖ God "changes" priesthoods from the father to the Levite, to the Son (Hebrews 5:5,6)

❖ God "changed" the chosen people from .....

❖ God "changed" the worship from the fleshly family's alter, to the Tabernacle's alter, to the Temple's alter to the spiritual offering of those assembled together (John 4:23-24; Romans 12:1; Acts 17:24,25). We assemble together as the body of Christ – the church.

Changes were permitted for one purpose; to allow the ultimate, unchangeable scheme of redemption to be achieved. And when the "perfect" plan had been provided, the allowance for change ceased.

The perfect scheme of God was fulfilled as the Lord's sacrifice on Calvary provided the perfect atonement for sin and bought the perfect church so all sincere seekers of Truth could find salvation. When the Lord's church was established, all permitted change in matters relating to one's saved relationship with God ceased (i.e. priesthood, sacrifices, worship etc.).

After the establishment of the church, God urged Christians neither to be "moved" from their faith, nor to "follow strange doctrines" in their belief system, nor to become anything

but “steadfast and unmovable”. He specifically stated that “change” in regard to doctrine and to the New Testament belief system is wrong: “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from is... Now we command you, brethren in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads on unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us (2 Thessalonians 2: 15; 3:6).

The “traditions of God” bind sincere hearts today with obligation to obey exactly and follow completely the commands taught in the New Testament. A partial compliance is sinful. An incomplete compliance is rebellion to God’s revelation. A belief system that condones anything but the full and complete surrender and total obedience taught by the New Testament is a belligerent arrogance that presumes to man’s wisdom above God’s wisdom.

WHO ARE WE – MERE HUMANS – TO STAND IN THE FACE OF GOD AND DARE TO CHANGE ONE WORD OF WHAT HE HAS COMMANDED OR REQUIRED THROUGH INSPIRATION OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT? WHO CAN PLEAD FOR SUCH A PERSON IN THE JUDGMENT?

Your Brother in the Lord.

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