

NEITHER CHRISTMAS OR THE CROSS CHANGED GOD

Malachi 3:6 Hebrews 13:8

Introduction: Everything about us is always changing, you name it, it has or will change. All we know has a beginning or an ending and in between those two extremes is constant change. We understand very little about God and He even told us "that His ways are not our ways." One of the most astounding things we will never understand is the Triune nature of God, that being - "God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit." Man has attempted to understand God by assigning all sorts of stories, theories, and just plain lies about the Holy Three. All concocted from their own thoughts, having nothing to do with revelations from God. We just don't understand how a person cannot change his/her mind from time to time, but God tells us He never changes. Consider these five things:

I. THE BIRTH OF CHRIST DID NOT CAUSE GOD TO SUDDENLY CARE FOR MANKIND

1. When the star appeared, the angels came, the shepherds saw and heard the heavenly announcement what they saw and heard was not something God suddenly thought up.
2. From the very beginning God has loved mankind, from the first two He made to those of today.
3. After the first couple sinned against God and were expelled from the Garden of Eden, God told them that He was going to bring someone, someday, who would restore mankind back to God and put the "evil One" where he belonged.
4. Christmas, the birth of Christ, was that promised time and person. God's love for mankind has always existed.

II. THE WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS DID NOT INFLUENCE GOD TO LOVE US

1. The cross did not increase God's love by any degree.
2. The cross did not open any fountain of grace or mercy from the heart of God.
3. The cross is not responsible for God's love for us.
4. God loved us from before creation of our world or our entry onto it.
5. It was God's love for us before we came into the world that conceived the cross as the only way by which we could be saved and restored.

III. GOD FELT NO DIFFERENT TOWARD US AFTER CHRIST HAD DIED FOR US

1. Before the world was made, before we came into the world, God's Son, had already died for us.
2. God has never seen us since the fall of mankind except through sacrifice/atonement.

3. The human race could not have existed one day in its fallen state had not Christ spread His mantle of atonement over us.
4. Long before they led Christ out to die on the hill above Jerusalem, He had already purposed to die.
5. All God's dealings with us have been conditioned upon the cross.

IV. IN FEEBLE ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN THE CROSS, FALSE TEACHINGS HAVE RESULTED

1. Christ never rushed into God's presence to catch the upraised arm of God ready to descend in fury upon the human race.
2. Christ never went out trembling to the cross to appease the wrath of God.

V. CHRIST NEVER STANDS OUTSIDE THE SINNER'S HEART WITH HAT IN HAND BEGGING TO BE ALLOWED TO BECOME SAVIOR

1. In the book of Revelation, Jesus is described as standing outside the heart's door, knocking and asking to come in. That has nothing to do with salvation which we so often associate this passage with. Jesus has been shut out of His own Church and has to ask to be let back in. SAD.
2. God never begs mankind to accept His love nor what He has done to restore man to his/her rightful place in the family of God. Each person is free to either accept or reject the results of God's love, care and concern for him/her.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Holy Three have always been "ONE" in essence, love and purpose.
2. We have the offer of redemption from not one person, Jesus Christ, but by all three persons of the Holy Trinity.
 - The Father is the source of love, grace, faith.
 - Jesus, the Son, is the One who came to reveal the Father and His love and grace.
 - The Holy Spirit is the One who comes to us and brings us to the Father through the Son.
3. We can never understand the why's and how's of God for His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not like our thoughts. FAITH is what we exercise in our relations with God. NOT trying to understand God.
4. God loves us. God has always loved us. God will always love us. Nothing will ever change that.
 - Christmas is the first visible act of God's plans for bringing us back to Him.
 - Easter is the final act needed to complete God's plan to bring us back to Him.
 - It is all God's idea and doing. Let us accept it by Faith with no questions asked.