



# RESOLVED SERIES

**Sermon Title:** *“Our Unchanging God”*

**Speaker:** Bauer Evans

**Text:** Malachi 3: 6-12

## Main Point

In times of uncertainty, the LORD is unchanging in his plan, purposes and promises for our lives.

## Points

- \*The Lord is unchanging in His character
- \*The Lord always keeps His promises
- \*The Lord’s name (“Lord of Hosts”) declares He is able to do what He promises
- \*When we return to the Lord we must give Him all of our life

## Quotes

“God is unchangeable, but not in every way we might think him to be. Instead he is unchangeable only in the ways Scripture tells us he is unchangeable. God is unchangeable in his being, attributes, purposes, and promises.”

- *Wayne Grudem (pg. 23 of Christian Beliefs)*

## Application

1. Re-read Malachi 3:6-12
2. What uncertainties were facing the Jewish people in 5<sup>th</sup> century BC that lead to their disillusionment and discouragement? What, or who or where were their hopes being set, if not in the LORD? When you are tempted to put your hope or dreams in something other than God and His word, what is the inevitable result in your relationship with Him, and towards others?
3. Malachi 3:6 declares that God's character is unchanging. Malachi 1:2-3 reveals that God grace and love promises to save His people are as unchanging as His character.

Explain what the LORD has done in saving you from His wrath and your sins and how what that reveals about his unchangeability and that it is not simply a theory, but real and true.

How should that affect how you face uncertainty and disillusionment today? Read Romans 8:28 and apply the gospel to his promise of loving you, and meeting your daily needs.

4. It is so easy in times of uncertainty to have our theology become just that: theology with no practical application in our lives.

Reflect on Bauer's message of how our anxious thoughts contain a 'hook' that draws us inward and focuses our hearts on ourselves. When you are anxious, what and who are you focusing on? How would lifting your gaze to the Lord weaken the grip of fear, worry and selfishness and focus your attention on the LORD, his promises, and even others?

5. It is so easy to put our hope in the good things God brings us, rather than the Lord himself. That is what these 5<sup>th</sup> century Jews did, and it led to their disillusionment and even desertion from God. Thus Malachi called them to 'return to the Lord' (vs. 7)

How do you know if you are still finding your hope in the LORD and not just in the good things He brings to you? Explain.

What is the ONE good thing that 'pulls you' to put your hope in it rather than in the LORD?

What does God tell you to do when you discover your hope is in something other than Him?

What practical steps of 'returning' does the Lord call you to make to be restored in your relationship with him?

6. Take time this week thinking on whom God is and on what He promises in Scripture. Don't briefly read them, but meditate upon those verses, saturating your thoughts with God-centered truths like Malachi 3:6. As you do, give thanks to the Lord for His GREAT GRACE in saving you and in promising to love you all of your days.