But thou art the same. (Quality: Very good)

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Preacher: Hyde, Leslie S B (1916-2001)

[0:00] For the Lord's help I will direct your attention to Psalm 102 verse 27. Psalm 102 verse 27.

But thou art the same. And thy years shall have no end. But thou art the same.

And thy years shall have no end. The children of men are subjected to constant change.

That constant change is reflected from every aspect. Constant change in respect to daily circumstances.

Constant change in respect to momentary emotions. Constant change in the vicissitudes of life.

[1:16] Constant change which so often may produce an unsettling situation. We read the result of this constant change as it respects the ungodly.

They are as the troubled sea throwing up mar and dirt. The result of constant change.

We may look at the waves of the sea. And there we see that which is nearest to perpetual motion.

There is a constant change in the continual movement. The wicked are likened unto the troubled sea.

And they cast up mire and dirt. The people of God also are the subject of constant change.

[2:28] Because we read this. They that have no changes fear not God.

Some of these changes may indeed be the result of our moodiness. But some of these changes are brought about by God for the benefit and instruction of his loved ones.

Their changes. Though it may appear to them sometimes. To be as the troubled sea casting up mire and dirt.

Yet. When it is examined again. It must be considered. That their troubled sea.

Which may seem to bring the scum to the top. Is to bear a difference. Between the world's troubled sea and theirs.

[3:52] God has control over the winds and the waves. But the point of our text is this. The strong contrast.

Between man in his fallen state. And the almighty God. But thou art the same.

And thy years shall have no end. Is it not good. When we can speak definitely. And clearly.

About our God. We have only to read down this psalm. To see that. He was subjected to.

Many troubles. For my days are consumed like smoke. My bones are burned as an hearth. My heart is smitten.

[4:58] And withered like grass. So that I forget to eat my bread. By reason of the voice of my groaning. My bones cleave to my skin.

I am like a pelican of the wilderness. I am like an owl of the desert. I watch and am as a sparrow alone.

Upon the housetop. And this. May just serve. As an example. Of the kind of changes.

That the psalmist knew. The church of God. Is ever thankful. For the scriptures of truth.

Because. If in one place. Reference should be made. To. Changes. And the fact. That they that have no changes.

[5:57] Fear not God. Then. Turning to other parts of the scripture. We have a commentary. On what the changes are. And they are.

Soul changes. And they are. Exercises. In the mind. They are changes.

Which. Result sometimes. In groaning. And sometimes. In sighing. And sometimes.

In weeping. Yet. All these things. Are often used of God.

To bring out. To bring out. More clearly. What God is. We learn. By contrast.

[6:59] Sometimes. We certainly learn. About God himself. By contrast. With what we are. May we ever remember.

What God is. If God was. As we are. Then. Surely. We should have perished.

Long ago. God. But. But. He is. In one mind. And who can turn him. And whatsoever. His soul desire.

It does. Desireth. Even that he do it. God. But how do we feel. About this. These words.

This evening. But thou art the same. Does it cause us. To rejoice. Does it save us. From despair.

[7:57] Does it encourage. Our hope. Does it cause us. To rejoice. In God. Our savior. To remember. That thou art. The same.

As we read. In the Hebrews. Jesus Christ. The same. Yesterday. And today. And forever. And he is the same.

To his children. Despite. Their. Varied. Frames.

And feelings. The Lord. Doesn't alter. When your spirit. May be peaceful. Or. When it may be angry.

The Lord. Doesn't alter. In his love. Toward you. When. You may. Speak advisedly. With your lips.

[8:58] Or. When you. Speak. Unadvisedly. When. The adverse. Side. Is so apparent.

Then. How the Lord. Will pity. He pities. Our distress. Surely. This is something.

Which demonstrates. Those. That possess. The grace. Of God. They are. Sorry. For their. Sins. They are.

Sorry. For. Speaking. Unadvisedly. With their lips. Now. God. Looketh at the heart. Once a thing.

Has been spoken. It cannot be. Be withdrawn. Apologies. Sometimes. May be offered. For what has been. Spoken.

[9:55] Unadvisedly. May. But. Sometimes. When we sit down. And think about. The repercussion. On others. Of the words.

Spoken. We may begin. To wonder. What God. Thinks of us. But. We have this.

They are. The same. His love. Is. Constant. It does not vary. Like a creature's love can.

But it is constant. Why is it constant? Because. He saw me.

Ruined in the fall. Yet loves me. Notwithstanding all. You see. Men. And women. May.

[10:54] Begin. To love a person. At their best. And their love. Goes cold. When they begin. To see their worst.

But the Lord. Loved his people. When he saw them. At their worst. First. And if it is possible.

To speak of them. Ever being. At their best. Then surely. His love. Will not depart. How good it is.

For. Any person. To love another. At their worst. And this is one of the reasons. Why it can be said. That they are not the same.

In respect. To thy love. Some of God's people. And I believe. Some of us.

[11:52] Have. Discovered this. That God. Has shown forth. His love. When we have been. Unworthy of it. Felt unworthy of it.

Been amazed. To see myself. So vile. And Jesus. Smiling. All the while. Now. If we see ourselves.

So vile. Surely. It is. The Lord's. Love. Being bestowed. Upon us. When we feel. To be at our worst.

That's why. It can truly. Be said. In respect. To his love. But thou art. The same. The Lord. The Lord himself.

Will never. Come to the point. Where. He will be amazed. At our conduct. He knows. He knows.

[12:51] How weak. We are. He knows. How liable. To sin. We are. How ready. To succumb. In the hour.

Of temptation. God. But the Lord. Is the same. In respect. To his love. We may well.

Consider this. Because. He loved us. In the first place. At our worst. Christ. While we were yet.

In our sins. Christ. Died. For us. It was not. When. There was some.

Discovery. That. We might. Have a tendency. Toward. Godliness. You see. The Lord. Knows the truth.

[13:47] He is the truth. And he is well aware. Of that. Which is written. There is none. Righteous. No. Not one.

But thou art. The same. If he is the same. In his love. Towards his people. He is also.

The same. In his knowledge. Of them. He is. We are. Continually. Making. Fresh discoveries. Discoveries.

Of the basis. Of our hearts. Of the deceitfulness. Of them. The craftiness. Of them. The lies.

That lie there. But the Lord. Is the same. In knowledge. He knew. What was in man.

[14:49] He needed not. That any. Should tell him. What was in man. Does this. Bring any. Encouragement.

To us. This evening. But thou art. The same. The knowledge. That he had. Is eternal.

Knowledge. Before the world. Began. I knew. That thou. Wouldest do this. The wickedness.

Of. Israel. As a nation. Did not. Surprise. The almighty. God. The fall. Of Adam.

In. The. Garden. Of Eden. Did not. Surprise. Almighty. God. He. Can. Look. Into. The future. Man.

[15:45] Can. Declare. The end. From. The beginning. And. Therefore. His knowledge. Is deep. And. Impenetrable.

Yet. We shall discover it. To be so. That thou. Oh. The almighty. God. Thou. Art. The same. Well.

Now. It's one thing. For us. Just to consider. These words. And. It's quite. A different thing. For us. To make the discovery.

In our experience. Have there been. Sometimes. When. We.

Have. We. Have. Taken. Ourselves. By surprise. Maybe. We've been. Building up. A spirit. Of self-righteousness. Without. Being aware.

[16:41] Of it. And all. Of a sudden. The temptation. Comes. And we're. Down. What is. The repercussion. That.

Christ's. Love. Has. Altered. Towards us. That. His. Knowledge. Has. Kind of. Discovered. Something. That we. Didn't.

Think. He knew. About. But. We've. Discovered. That. He did. Know. About. It. And. We've. Also. Discovered.

That. His. Love. Didn't. Alter. In the. Song of. Solomon. We read. A few. Points. Only.

Brief. Points. In respect. To. The. Bride. Of. Christ. Respecting. Her. Love. And.

[17:37] Also. Respecting. Her. Weaknesses. Again. It. Speaks. To. Us. Of. The. Unchangeable. Love.

Of. God. In. The. The. Completeness. Of. His. Work. And. The. Faithfulness.

That. He. Has. Towards. His. Word. I. Will. Not. Alter. The. Thing. That. Has. Gone. Out. Of. My. Mount. Now.

We. Should. Have. Reason. To. Worship. Because. The. Lord. Is. The. Same. He. Is. The. Same. In. Health. As. He. Is. In. Sickness. And. The. Same.

In. Sickness. As. He. Is. In. Health. He. Is. The. Same. In. Youth. As. He. Is. In. Old. Age. The.

[18:32] Psalmist. Says. Now. That. I. Am. Old. And. Gray. Headed. Forsake. Me. Not. Did. He. Think. That.

God. Had. Changed. Did. He. Think. That. In. His. Youthful. Days. When. He. Was. Able. By.

The. Strength. Given. To. Him. To. Fight. The. Lord's. Battles. Against. The. Wicked. Nations. That. The. Lord. Looked. Upon. Him. Favorably.

But. Now. That. He. Was. Old. And. Decrepit. Having. Many. Infirmities. That. God. Had. Altered. Doubtless.

The. Thought. Was. Running. Through. His. Mind. That. Made. Him. Say. Now. As. I. Am. Old. And. Gray. Headed. Forsake. Me. Not. And.

[19:28] Yet. Even. In. That. He. Proved. This. But. Thou. Art. The. Same. The. Same. In. Youth. And. The. Same. In. Old.

Age. And. Then. We. Discover. Also. That.

God. Is. The. Same. In. The. Single. State. As. Well. As. In. The. Married. State. Some.

Know. This. Transfer. Of. Their. Situation. But. God. Is. The. Same. There.

Are. Matters. That. You. Brought. To. God. As. A. Single. Person. Maybe. Matters. As. A. Married. Person.

[20:23] You. Bring. To. God. But. They. Are. Different. But. God. Is. The. Same. He. Is. Able. To. Deal. With. All. Kinds. And. States. Of. People. He.

Is. The. Same. And. Then. Again. God. Is. The. Same. When. Our. Faith.

Is. Strong. And. No. Less. When. Our. Faith. Is. Weak. Oh. Ye. Of. Little. Faith. Wherefore.

Did. She. Did. To. Thou. Doubt. As. Fallen. Creatures. We. Cannot. Understand. That.

Thou. Art. The. Same. When. The. Disciples. Showed. Such. A. Poor. Evidence. Of. Faith. But.

[21:20] The. Lord. Was. The. Same. To. Them. It. Is. Somewhat. Remarkable. In.

The. Comparisons. That. Are. Made. In. The. Scripture. Concerning. The. Spirit. Of. Our. Lord. Jesus. Christ. And.

Others. I. Remember. Reading. Some. Years. Ago. In. Dr. Goodwin. Of. The. Reference. And. Comparison. That. He. Made. Between. Joseph.

When. He. Made. Himself. Known. To. His. Brethren. And. The. Lord. When.

He. Made. Himself. Known. To. His. Brethren. After. The. Resurrection. Now. Joseph's. Word. For. These. I.

[22:14] Am. Your. Brother. Whom. Ye. Sold. Into. Egypt. But. When. The. Lord.

Was. Written. From. The. Dead. And. Appeared. Unto. His. Disciples. On. The. Seashore. He. Said. Unto. Them. Have.

You. Any. Meat. Should. He. Not. Have. Made. A. Reference. To. Their. Fleeing.

I. Am. The. One. That. You. Forsook. I. Am. The. One. That. When. I. Needed. You. So. Much. You. Went. Away.

No. Mention. No. Mention. Their. Sin. But. Then. Christ. Had. Died. To. Put. Away. Their.

[23:07] Sin. And. Now. Christ. Had. Manifested. That. He. Had. Written. Again. For. Their. Justification. And. He. Could. Not. Therefore. Mention. Anything.

That. Would. Bring. To. Their. Recollection. I. Am. Jesus. Whom. You. Forsook. Now.

You. See. Joseph. He. Could. Not. Put. Away. Sin. And.

Therefore. He. Could. Not. Speak. To. His. Brethren. And. Speak. To. Them. With. Sin. Blotted. Out. He.

Spoke. To. Them. Kindly. He. Spoke. To. Them. Affectionately. He. Spoke. To. Them. With. A. Bursting. Heart.

[24:03] But. He. Could. Not. But. Identify. Them. With. The. People. That. Sold. Him. Into. Egypt. And.

So. God. Dr. Goodwin. Makes. This. Distinction. Between. The. Love. Of. Christ. To. His. Church. His. Disciples.

His. Irring. People. And. The. Love. Of. Joseph. For. His. Brethren. Maybe. We.

Could. Think. Upon. That. Point. Has. The. Lord. Ever. Come. And. When. You. Expected. Him.

To. Speak. To. You. About. Your. Sin. There. Was. No. Mention. In. The. Prophecy.

[24:59] Of. Habakkuk. We. Find. Him. Saying. This. In. The. Second. Chapter. I. Will. Stand. Upon. My. Watch. And. Set. Me. Upon.

The. Tower. And. Will. Watch. To. See. What. He. Will. Say. Unto. Me. And. What. I. Shall. Answer. When.

I. Am. Reproved. Now. You. See. If. A. Person. Has. Been. Guilty. Then.

We. As. Fallen. Creatures. Don't. Expect. That. God. Will. Do. Anything. Else. But. Reprove. Them. And.

As. Individuals. If. We. Are. The. Guilty. Party. We. Don't. Expect. Anything. Else. But. That. God. Will. Reprove. Us. But.

[25:56] Sometimes. He. Has. Come. With. His. Love. And. Love. Can. Be. Deeply. Reproving. Sometimes. Not.

A. Word. Spoken. From. The. One. That. We. Have. Offended. But. We. Have. Been. Affected.

In. Our. Own. Hearts. Because. Of. Such. Love. Vouch. Save. Towards. Us. When. We. Have. Felt. Such. Guilt. Within. Our. Hearts. How. Can.

This. Man. Love. Me. Say. Such. Things. When. I. Feel. Such. Guilt. Within. It. Just.

Demonstrates. These. Words. But. They. Aren't. The. Same. The. Love. Of. Christ. Does. Never. Alter. Towards. His. People.

[26:54] And. What. A. Consolation. That. Is. It. Will. Not. Make. Us. Irreverent. Rather.

Will. It. Inculcate. Into. Our. Hearts. A. Very. Deep. Sense. Of. Reverence. For. The. God. That. Loves. Us. So. Well. And.

So. Much. We. Shall. Not. Have. To. Go. Back. Many. Hours. Many. Days. Or.

Weeks. Or. Months. Or. Years. To. Discover. That. Thou. Art. The. Same. The.

Lord. Looks. At. The. Heart. If. We. Have. Ability. To. Present. A. Well. Ordered. Prayer. Or.

[27:49] If. We. Lack. Ability. And. Just. Stumble. Along. We. Discover. That. They. Aren't. The. Same. God. Gives. The. Answer. God. Sends. Answers. Of.

Peace. And. We. Sometimes. Discover. That. He. Sends. Answers. Bringing. Peace. Into. Our. Conscience. More. When. We. Stumble.

And. Stagger. Than. When. Perhaps. We. Feel. Grace. To. Order. Our. Cause. Before. Him. And.

So. In. These. Changing. Circumstances. In. Our. Attempts. To. Wait. Upon. God. In. Prayer. We. Still. Find. Thou. Art. The. Same.

The. Same. Is. The. Same. As. Our. God. In. His. Nature. Why.

[28:44] Is. He. The. Same. And. We. Have. So. Many. altercations. It.

Is. Because. He. Is. The. Eternal. God. Time. Brings. About. Changes. Eternity.

Is. Synonymous. With. Constancy. And. Therefore. It. Can. Be. Said. But. Thou. Art. The. Same. And. Thy. Years. Shall. Have. No. End.

Bringing. This. Point. Forward. This. Is. The. Eternal. God. The.

Lord. Teaches. His. People. Doctrine. In. Strange. Ways. Sometimes. And. A. Text. Of.

[29:37] Scripture. That. They. May. Not. Think. Of. At. All. As. Teaching. Them. Anything. About. Doctrine. Will. Suddenly. Loom. Up.

Before. Them. This. One. Tells. Us. About. The. Eternal. God. And. If. We. Think. On. That. Point.

Perhaps. Our. Thought. Will. Go. To. Deuteronomy. Where. We. Read. The. Eternal. God. Is. Thy. Refuge. The.

Name. Of. The. Lord. Is. A. Strung. Tower. The. Righteous. Runneth. Into. It. And. Is. Safe. Any. Day. Any.

Night. Any. Moment. The. God. Is. The. Refuge. Of. His. People. The. Eternal. Refuge. Because.

[30:33] He. Is. The. Eternal. Refuge. He. Is. Not. Touched. By. Time. Things. The. Devil. May. Chase. You. Until.

You. Get. To. The. Refuge. As. A. Dog. May. Chase. A. Rabbit. So. To. Speak. Until. It. Gets.

To. His. Hole. But. When. It. Gets. Down. The. Hole. That's. The. End. As. Far. As. The. Dog. Is. Concerned. Bro. That's. A. Poor. Illustration. But. You. Know. When.

You. Flee. To. Christ. Once. You're. There. Whoever. Pursues. You. Can. Come. No. Further. Now. That. Is. The. Same.

Every. Day. You. May. Have. To. Flee. Twice. A. Day. You. May. Have. To. Flee. Twice. A. Week. You. May.

[31:24] Have. To. Flee. Twice. In. So. Many. Minutes. But. The. Refuge. Is. Still. There. And. We. Have. Those. Great. Words. In.

The. Hebrews. Concerning. A. Hope. Those. That. Have. Fled. For.

Refuge. To. Lay. Hold. Upon. The. Hope. Set. Before. Them. Now. That. Speaks. To. Them. Of. Eternity. Which. Hope. We.

Have. As. An. Anchor. Of. The. Soul. Both. Sure. And. Steadfast. And. Which. Entereth. Into. That. Within. The. Veil. Whither. The. Forer. Unresented. In. Even. Jesus. Christ.

And. That. Speaks. About. One. That's gone. Reformed. That. Speaks. To. Us. About. One. That. Has. Risen. From. The. Dead. That. Speaks. To. Us. About. One. That. Has. As.

As. As. Led. Captivity. And. Received. Gifts. For. Men. Yea. For. The. Rebellious. Also. [32:15] That. Speaks. To. Us. Of. One. who has risen a conqueror a forerunner who has already run the race and we if we are in his body the church have run the race with him speaking naturally it would be a very strange sight to see a head running the race without a body and we may consider that point in respect to Christ running the race he ran the race but his church was with him if you are discouraged because you seem to stumble in the race then we have this exhortation looking unto Jesus looking unto your head seeing that he has finished the course you may be struggling but because he has finished you must finish also there is much to be considered in those few words that the Lord spoke on Calvary it is finished the race is finished the battle is finished you have no need to fight in this battle the Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold there your peace and this is the eternal God against whom no power can prevail whether men or devils but thou art the same the same refuge but thou art the same strong tower and both these are eternal the tower of Babel was thrown down brought to confusion but Jesus Christ was not thrown down many thought he was when he was crucified upon the cross at Calvary many concluded that he had been thrown down they didn't realize that he was a strong tower but he wasn't thrown down because he rose again he was the almighty God but thou art the same refuge and God is known in her palaces for a refuge in connection with Zion the city of the living God in her palaces for a refuge dear refuge of my weary soul a refuge therefore has many facets to its meaning weariness a night comes on to feel the shelter of our loving saviour you know we give ourselves up to everybody that might feel unpleasant towards us when we go to sleep because we are powerless people could do anything

to us but how good when we lay our head upon our pillow to lay to feel that we are laying our head upon our pillow which is encompassed encompassed by this refuge of God's people God shall alone thy refuge be and comfort of my mind too wise to be mistaken he too good to be unkind and so we go from resting in him and finding our sleep to be sweet to us because of that holy confidence to the changing scenes in life and sometimes they seem to be confused but may this be the instruction received as we enter into this refuge not just to hide there but to be enlightened there and to be enlivened there he is too wise to her and oh too good to be unkind and when we fall into the arms of

Christ as our refuge then that those are blessed truths which blazing before our eyes of faith he is too wise to her and oh too good to be unkind now you can look into your present situation which you know and only God knows we cannot know one another's inmost feelings we cannot be aware of how near they may sometimes be to respond we cannot be aware of the fearsome temptations which may take possession of the soul but the Lord is the same and he knows he knows what sore temptations mean for he has felt the same he knew it in

Abraham's day Isaiah and Jeremiah's day Peter and John's day and he knows it in our day he's the same throughout the years when Peter wrote concerning the fiery trial think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing had happened unto you but rejoice in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings that when his glory shall be revealed ye may be glad also with exceeding joy these words setting before us this wonderful truth he is too wise to err and too good to be unkind just the same

God that inspired Peter to speak these words that will cause us to experience the words spoken today if ye be reproached for the name of Christ happy are ye for the spirit of glory and of God rested upon you on their part he is even spoken of but on your part he is glorified but thou art the same can we look at it at these words and then look at the people that are mentioned in the scripture and observe that the work of God in them is the same as the work of God in ourselves sometimes I feel it is a source of encouragement when we may be in desperate circumstances deep afflictions sore temptations heavy trials to find in the word of

[41:09] God something very similar described and then what God spoke to them and what does he speak to his people today just the same they are the same we have this clearly discovered to us when the Lord spoke to Joshua and he said I will never leave thee nor forsake thee and Paul takes it up in the Hebrews proving to us that no scripture is of any private interpretation the Lord was the same to Joshua as he is to any of his children speaking the same words with equal effect making those words to come to pass in their lives he is the same because he worketh all things after the counsel of his own will and none can stay his hand or say unto him what doest thou but thou art the same and thy years shall have no end is it not wonderful to consider this we think of the

Lord Jesus Christ as being a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek without a beginning of days or ending thereof there's no end the priesthood under Aaron was subjected to change because the people died and they had to be replaced by a successor but thou art the same and here is the glory of it to the church of God the same high priest over the house of Israel takes our case in hand now that took the case of soil of Tarsus in hand and others in the scriptures it's the same high priest and how beautifully does

Paul speak about it and surely he spoke of one whom he knew himself such an high priest became us who was holy harmless undefiled and separate from sinners then he goes a bit farther in another chapter and says this seeing then that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens Jesus the son of God let us hold fast our profession what kind of profession is that a profession of how good we are how we've held unto Christ how upright we've been how stable we've been how unmoved we've been that's not the meaning here let us hold fast our profession amongst the things that are to be spoken of in our profession is this thou art the same and thy years shall have no end the profession that the church of

God makes is not about themselves but about what God is in Christ and therefore they make a profession about the adequacy and the prevalence of the work of their high priest and their profession is such that they cannot speak too highly of their high priest whoever liveth to make intercession for them but there is another remarkable quality in respect to this high priest as distinct from the Levitical high priests it is described to us in this verse for we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities but was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin how difficult it is for a human person to enter in and truly sympathize with another in all their afflictions and temptations and therefore by their human frailties and limitations the high priests coming forth under the

Aaronic priesthood were unable to sympathize in the same way but here is one for we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities and that's quite different from infirmities we may look at our dear friends we may observe their infirmities and they are varied but what about the feeling what about the effect of those infirmities as our friends get older there are bodily infirmities but who can understand what you feel but we have a high priest here who can feel can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities of youth there are infirmities of middle age as well as infirmities of age there are infirmities of the mind as well as of the body and if we are blessed with the grace of God and the fear of God in our heart with all those infirmities that people might see there's a feeling in the heart of a person having that infirmity now because we don't feel perhaps we are ready to criticize and sometimes to criticize harshly but we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities by reason of the hardness of his heart you know we read in the scriptures of the gentleness of

[49:14] Christ what a wonderful view that is of Christ the gentleness of Christ and why is he gentle this is one of the reasons because he is capable of being touched with the feeling of our infirmities thou art the same the same when we felt that he felt for us with the infirmities of youth and so on as the years went by and it's just the same now feeling for us in the infirmities of advancing years but they were not the same and thy years shall have no end there will be no cessation to the glory of