Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.



Who is God? What is He like? Can He be known? These are the most important questions in the universe. The good news is God has answered these questions by revealing Himself through His attributes. The most important thing we can do in the universe is grow in our knowledge of God. We have been created by God to know God. For the season of Lent our devotions will be on knowing God through His attributes.

# Unchangeable (immutable)

God does not change. Who he is never changes. His attributes are the same from before the beginning of time into eternity. His character never changes – he never gets "better" or "worse." His plans do not change. His promises do not change. Once God has made a promise it is as good as done, He cannot be unfaithful or untrustworthy. He doesn't go back on His Word.

# Scripture on the unchangeable nature of God

- *Exodus 3:14* God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"
- *Numbers* 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?
- I Samuel 15:28-29 Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should change his mind."
- Job 23:13 But he is unchangeable, and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does.
- **Psalm 90:1-2** Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- **Psalm 93:1-2** The world is established; it shall never be moved. Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.
- **Psalm 102:25-27** Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.
- *Isaiah 40:28* Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
- Jeremiah 31:3 I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.
- Malachi 3:6 For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

- **Romans 8:38-39** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- II Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.
- *Hebrews 6:17* So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath.
- Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

### Song

**Psalm 59:16** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

#### Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes, Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, Nor striving, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might; Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above Thy clouds, which are fountains Of mercy and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small; In all life Thou livest, the true life of all; We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, To wither and perish—But naught changeth Thee.

Today and tomorrow with Thee still are Now; Nor trouble, nor sorrow, nor care, Lord, hast Thou; Nor passion doth fever, nor age can decay, The same God for ever as on yesterday.

All laud we would render; O help us to see, 'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee; And now let Thy glory to our gaze unroll, Through Christ in the story, And Christ in the soul. ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" text by Walter C. Smith (1867), Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

# <u>Prayer</u>

*II Chronicles 7:14* If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Holy Father, in your Word you are often referred to as a rock and for good reason. Rocks are strong and stable, and so are you. But that is where the similarity ends, for even rocks are changed by erosion and other natural phenomena. But you cannot change or be changed. You are the only security we can trust without reservation. You alone are fully dependable. Truly, we are blessed to know that God who never changes.

You are never happy one minute and angry the next minute, this time calm, next time a volcano. We never have to wonder if you will be in a good mood or not, whether you will feel like listening to us this time. There aren't times when you are busy, or off the clock, or disinterested.

Forgive us when seek security or refuge in this world, in places or ways that are fickle, always changing, whether the government, bank accounts, or friends.

Remind us we can put our absolute, confident trust in you and you alone. Because you have eternal life and promise us eternal life, we can rest assured that nothing, not trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword shall separate us from the love of Christ. It is because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever that neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, not even powers, height, depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from your love for is in Christ Jesus our Lord. In His name we pray, Amen.