

Transcript

James T. Jeremiah:

I don't have a letter from the athletic department, but I can still shout the praises of the organization and we're grateful for all who work with Dr. Dixon to make this school what it is.

James T. Jeremiah:

Now this morning, I want to bring a message on the theme that fits into our college theme, which is the "Unchanging Christ in the midst of a Changing World" and I'd like to have you open your Bibles please, to the 13th chapter of the book of Hebrews. And we're going to go into part of that chapter, but I want read the verses that will be the main text, and then we'll have prayer together and talk about some of the things concerning the Savior. Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines; for it is good that the heart be established by grace not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat."

James T. Jeremiah:

Once this is addressed primarily and particularly to Christian Jews, those who are Jewish people who believed on the Savior. Let's pray together, thank You Lord for today, You brought us together to hear Your word and we pray the spirit of God will direct in what is said and how it is heard. Help us all to apply the truth as it is found in the word of God in Jesus name. Amen.

James T. Jeremiah:

I have a little program on the radio called the Senior Advantage, and one of the advantages of being a senior is you can look back over the years and think of some of the changes that have taken place. I have a few that I could talk about. For example, I was born in a country home, out in the wilderness of New York state. And there's plenty of that out there. And five miles, I think from civilization, sometimes it seemed farther than that. Well, in those days we had telephones. It's very interesting. It was like having a party line. There were probably 15 or 20 people or homes on the line and they had different rings and you crank the thing to get the person you wanted, but it didn't make a whole lot difference, everybody listened anyway! We didn't have television and radio. We just had the old party line.

James T. Jeremiah:

We had cars in those days. That may be a shock to some of you. We had different kinds of cars. I remember my uncle had a Model T Ford Touring car and if you wanted to drive that in the wintertime, you'd put up side curtains. And if you weren't careful, the top might fly off. It was a very interesting thing. In order to start it, you did not have a starter except you, you get out in front and cranked it. Now you've never seen anything like that, but some of us have participated in that thing.

James T. Jeremiah:

We lived in the year BTV there wasn't any TV, before television. I remember the beginning of radio, I was living before there was such a thing as television. You can't, I know it's impossible to believe that anybody could be alive without that, with all that knowledge back way in that day, I'm terrible. I went to

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a school that predated the ACE program. Some of you educators know about that. The ACE program it was called Accumulated Country Education. It was all located in one room. It had advantages. By the time you were an eighth grader, you have reviewed the previous grade so well that you were a real scholar. I left in the sixth grade. Then I had to go to a city school. What a change that was. Well, we didn't have buses in those days, I walked to school. It was supposed to be three miles to school. It was five miles to school and three miles home. I didn't want to go.

James T. Jeremiah:

But you've seen changes, everything changes around this world. I'm glad to tell you, there's one who doesn't. Yesterday goes beyond anything we can imagine. Thinking of the eternal Christ, the word of God makes it clear that He is eternal, He is immutable---that is, He cannot change---and He is deity, and deity does not improve. And deity never becomes less than what it is. It's always the same. He does not change. As we think about the earthly leaders, they come and go.

James T. Jeremiah:

I have a great deal of enjoyment sometimes to talk to some of the young preachers and refer to some men that I've known well in the days gone by. And, I ask about them and they never heard of the fellow. That's embarrassing because I'm about the same age as some of them and, it isn't too much fun to realize that you can be easily forgotten. Some of them do not know these names, leaders change. I think it was William Barkley in his book on the New Testament, said, "All earthly leaders must come and go. They have their day, lead their generation and they must pass from the scene." And, what is true of leaders today is a true of you. We all pass from the scene. But the Lord Jesus doesn't change. He is the same.

James T. Jeremiah:

On one occasion, I was visiting the place where Moody used to live in New England. His old house is located on the edge of the schools that he established. He's buried near the home. And, I walked on the campus of the school and I said, "Can you tell me where DL Moody's home is?" And he said, "DL who?" A student didn't even know him. We think of DL Moody and have a great reason to rejoice as we think of what that man did by the grace of God. As I walked on the campus that he established and I wanted to find the home in which he lived and the place where he was buried. Nobody seemed to know. I want to tell you friend, as I think about the changes and the loss and all the rest around us, I am grateful to announce to you what you already know.

James T. Jeremiah:

Jesus Christ is unchanging. He is the one who could say, "Before Abraham was, I am." And about eleven times in the Gospel of John, the Lord, Jesus Christ declares, "I am the light of the world. I am the bread of life. I am the true vine. I am the shepherd of the sheep." All the way down the list---I am. That means that He does not change. Now, He's unchanging in His person. Let's think about that for a few minutes. He's the same. Man, kingdoms, all this world change. We've seen it in our day. Some of the so-called well established, almost eternal kingdoms on earth overnight, they changed.

James T. Jeremiah:

I remember going to the Ford museum in Dearborn some years ago. I don't know if this is presented there like this now or not, but there, there was an attempt to make Henry Ford appear as he always was. I guess that was one of the sidetracks of trying to sell Fords. I don't know because I've had a Ford

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and it wasn't always what it was. I mean, it was not as always what it was. Anyhow, Henry Ford changed like all the rest. In Hebrews chapter 1 in verses 10 to 12, it says, "The foundations shall be changed. But thou art the same, your years shall never end."

James T. Jeremiah:

Spurgeon, who was a great preacher in England, made this statement, a very brief one, but it fits here. He said, "It is well that there is one person who is the same and the only person you and I know is the one of whom we speak does not change the Lord Jesus Christ." Speaking of God, as He is God, of course, in James 1:17, "With Him there is no variables or variation, no shadow cast by turning and the things which change us, never change Him." One thing that changes us is teaching. Look at verse 9, "Do not be carried about with various strange doctrines."

James T. Jeremiah:

You students ought to become really concerned about knowing what the Bible teaches and asking God to give you lifelong determination, to believe what it teaches because teachings can change people. In Romans 1:25 it says, "They exchange the truth of God for a lie." In the university system, in the college system of our nation young people are changed by what they are taught. Thank God we have a place to teach the truth from the word of God and we trust that you will be true to that. Men are changed by what they're taught. I remember the day when a homosexual was a sinner and when it was wrong to murder babies and right at this point, long as it's here and I better say it, I don't intend to vote for any candidate who is pro-homo and is pro-abortion.

Speaker 2:

Amen.

James T. Jeremiah:

Back in the day of Sodom, God saw that they were exceedingly wicked. Now, I want to tell you something that's more than a psychological misfit. They were wicked. They were vile. And one day, if they could see things today, they would be embarrassed. Red faced as they see what's going on in our land. People are changed by teaching. But, what men teach about Him does not change Him.

James T. Jeremiah:

I remember riding at a bus and in Jerusalem and we had a Muslim guide. We were trying to talk to him a little bit about the Lord. He said, "Well, we believe that Jesus went to heaven. We believe Muhammad went to heaven, Jesus and Muhammad alike went to heaven." There's a big difference. Jesus went by the way of the cross and the empty tomb, Muhammad is supposed to have mounted his fiery steed, as he mounted it in the city of Jerusalem and rode off to heaven. He soon came back. I can understand why. The Lord Jesus Christ was glorified, went to heaven. He is coming back and He's coming back in power and great glory. Men do not change Jesus by what they teach. And sometimes the things that come out of the area of theology are distressing as we think of what they try to make people believe about the Savior. Time doesn't change Him either, the teachings of men, time doesn't change Him. Verse 21, it says, "Be glory forever and ever".

James T. Jeremiah:

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Now, if you don't think time changes, you'll live a while. You heard about the old boy that went back to the college alumni meeting. And, he walked in and he saw one of his buddies and the buddies said, "I am glad to see you. I tell you haven't changed a bit." And the man said to him in return, "You have, you don't see well."

James T. Jeremiah:

I remember going back to my old pastorate, right? It was in Toledo, they had an anniversary there for days of excitement, that had gone by and I was asked to bring a message. And, I was looking around the pictures and I tell you, it was amazing what I saw. I saw a picture of who they said was the pastor back in the thirties, in the forties. And, the guy was a nice looking fellow. He had a lot of curly, dark hair. And, I looked under the thing and I was misled because it couldn't have been me. You mean to tell me, preacher that you had hair? Yeah. And, it was dark? Yeah. And, it was curly? Yeah. When I was kid my mother, a little kid, my mother tried to comb my hair and I can still remember the tears I shed, wishing that somehow or other I could get rid of this stuff and I did. Time changes us, take a look at the pictures. See, isn't it great that as we go to the land of Israel today and go to the Sea of Galilee and...

James T. Jeremiah:

Think about the day when the storm came and the Lord Jesus Christ spoke, and it was quieted. Think about the miracle of fishes. And it was interesting one day as we went there, we were able to see an old boat that goes back maybe to the time of Christ that they found in the mud of the Sea of Galilee. I couldn't help but think as I looked at that thing of those disciples on that boat with the Savior. And He could quite the sea, He could bring miracles to pass, raise the dead, but He hasn't changed. I want to tell you students, God still is in the business of doing great things for His people. God is still in the business of, if you please, performing miracles to see us through the trials and see us through the times of testings and see us through the days when we need substance in order to go on to care for the things that are around us. Time, doesn't change Him. He is the same yesterday, the day and forever. Teachings and time do not change Him, neither do His triumphs.

James T. Jeremiah:

You think about the Lord Jesus Christ. You go back in the book of Hebrews for a minute to the first chapter. And this whole book is about Him and it's a good book to study and to read. "Who being the brightness of His glory and express image of His person and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He'd by Himself, purge our sins sat down for the right hand of the majesty and high having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Triumph. He triumphed on the Mount of Transfiguration. He triumphed when He came to Caesarea Philippi and said, "Who do men say that I am?" And, like the men of our day, they named a whole lot of men to whom they compared Him or with whom they compared Him.

James T. Jeremiah:

And then of course, Simon Peter came forth with that great statement, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." He came after all of that triumph and all the crucifixion victories and all the resurrection victories. And, we see Him walking, if you please, incognito with a couple of disciples along the road to Emmaus who were discouraged and distressed and troubled. And, He walked with them, He was the stranger to them because they didn't know who He was. But all I'd like to think of Him, He heard what they said. They listened to what He had to give them to encourage them along the way, stopped in their

home and fed and passed on the food to them. I think when they saw His hands, nail marked hands, they recognized at last who He was.

James T. Jeremiah:

The triumphs of the Lord Jesus Christ have enabled us and they still do as we go on in the service of the Lord. They didn't make Him any different. He is still the son of God, He's still the one who abides forever the same. I think of an Old Testament great man in the minds of many. And, I think truly, right so many ways. His name was Solomon. Solomon was a great man from many standpoints. He was a man of wealth. He was a man of wisdom and he was a man of women.

James T. Jeremiah:

He had many and the great victories that seemed to make him great, ruined him. I want to say to you, the day that we got a Savior who was not lost in the victories that He had, but He is victorious. He's unchanging in the trials that He faced in verse 15 of chapter 4, He was tempted in all points like as we are sin apart. "Amidst everything else that was changeable. Jesus Christ remains ever the same," wrote Dr. Thomas.

James T. Jeremiah:

When a man goes from poverty to riches, he most likely changes. You ever see anybody do that? Somebody said, "I sure would like to try it." From poverty to riches. Well, perhaps, but He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poorer than we through His poverty might be made rich. And, while He was here, he went through all kinds of testings, difficulties, trials, misunderstandings, hatred, antagonism. And He's still going through that out in our day for the godless hate Him and the devil despises Him. And, those who are identified with Him will find somewhere along the line that maybe you'll have some of it yourself. But the trials and the testings and the disappointments, as we might think of them from the human standpoint, never changed Him.

James T. Jeremiah:

Trials, so many times work for our good. They are helpful along the way. They're not easy. Out in Newfoundland, several years ago, there was a fleet of boats, fishing boats that went out for the catch. And, while they were out there, there was a great storm. They were lost and trying to get back, they had a difficult time. To make things even worse back at home, where all the men had left and the women and children were still there. One of the homes caught fire and burned. And, here are these poor people wondering where their loved ones are and those men out on the boat, wondering how they could get back.

James T. Jeremiah:

But when the morning came and they went down to the shore, the boats were there and they rejoiced, of course, to see those who'd gone out into the sea. And, one dear lady went to her husband and said, "Well, it's sure great to have you back, but I hate to tell you that our house burned last night and we haven't a thing left." That man said to his wife, "Honey, I'm glad it did burn, for the fire of that house was the beacon that got us home." And sometimes the trials and the sorrows and the testings are the things that come to us to get us home.

James T. Jeremiah:

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The Lord Jesus knew what it was to suffer the things that you suffer, the trials that you and I have, but they didn't change Him. He was unchanging in His person. He's unchallenged in His power yesterday, today, yes and forever. There is no man, philosophy or philosophic system or ideology or religion or enemy or contemporary or prophet or future power can challenge His power. He is the only one qualified to suffer for your sins. "Jesus sought me, won a stranger wandering from the fold of God. He then saved my soul from danger and interposed His precious blood." He alone can redeem the lost. He has power to save the most wicked person on earth. There are no hopeless cases with my Savior.

James T. Jeremiah:

He has power, challenge that if you will. You take the religions who are trying to get people to believe all their philosophies and have no relationship with God at all. But, I want to tell you, the Savior is able to transform lives as He always has, unchallenged in His power. You think about suffering from sins, His resurrection from the dead verse 20 of this passage, it says, "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant make you complete and every good work to do His will, the resurrection power." The power we have to live for Christ, resurrection power. "I have been crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."

James T. Jeremiah:

I think of His powers as His session in heaven in chapter 12:2, we're told to, "Look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross despising the shame. And has sat down the right hand of the father on high." The session in heaven, no saint, no martyr, no church, no creed, no ritual, no resolution can bring us boldly to the throne of grace. But the unchanging Savior that brought the men and women of the generation's past is still living to take your burden and my burden and hear us at the throne of grace. See His power as the interceding Savior. And, then one day He's coming back. His return in glory, He will appear verse 28 of chapter 9, "He will appear the second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him."

James T. Jeremiah:

One day, I read the USA Today and it's not unusual to read what I read, but they have a big announcement in it about Jesus coming on a certain day. It's already pointed out by these people. Now, they could be wrong and they probably are. I used to think with all the predictions of the time when Jesus would come and they had it all pictured out, as you've read about it, that maybe accidentally they'd hit it. But the more I think about it, the more I believe that I don't believe the Lord will come on any day they say He's coming. He's coming in His own time. He's coming in His own time. But He's coming... And this whole world will be different.

James T. Jeremiah:

And, oh we're going to invest our money and our time in a lot of great things that we build. And, we have to do that in order to exist and go on in life. But one day, the thing you can think about is that Cadillac you're going to have is going to be burned up. I could have started out with a Ford or a Chevy, but I thought I might as well get high class. It's going to burn. He's coming again. This world's going to be different.

James T. Jeremiah:

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He's unchallenged in His power and He's unfailing in His provision. I like this part and I'm going to take a little time just to talk about it. Look at this passage of scripture, 13th chapter, "Let your conduct be without covetousness and be content with such things as you have." Verse 5, "For He Himself has said, I will never leave you and nor forsake you." So we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?

James T. Jeremiah:

Unfailing His provision. I like to think of Him standing there, seated there, thinking about your needs and mine. I'll never forget a story I read about a lady up in years who was anxious to do something for God. And, she got involved in visiting people in the hospitals and she would go and talk to them and pray with them and help them. And, she had a motto and the motto was, "Don't do something, just stand there." That's not the way we do it. Don't stand there. Do something. Oh, that's not the way she did it. Just stand there. I'm glad He is seated there. I'm glad He is there to be my intercessor and He never fails. The one who has suffered without the gate is raised from the dead, being the great shepherd to the sheep. He is my helper. My helper. Material needs, verse 5, "Keep your lives free from love of money." Oh, we could talk about that. There's nothing wrong with a Christian being rich.

James T. Jeremiah:

There's a lot wrong if that's the great objective of life. If you're here in school to study some particular major in order that you may be rich, you may end up in poverty, but if you come and get the will of God in your life, and God makes you rich, hallelujah. But may you be true to the word of God and true to the call of God. There's an old man who was having trouble about evaluation of money. He was a farmer and he didn't want to give anything. He was wealthy. So a preacher had a little way of dealing with him and took him to his home and there was a great big window. And, he looks out of that window. What do you see? Oh, he said, "I see my lands, my cattle and my neighbors. I see all of those people out there." And then he said, "Turn this direction." He looked in the mirror and what do you see? "See myself." "Isn't it amazing" he said, "What a little silver will do to change your vision."

James T. Jeremiah:

We ought to have the vision on the Lord. Personal loneliness, "Never will I leave you," verse 5, "Never will I forsake you." To Israel and Joshua God said, "I will not fail you nor forsake you." Natural fear, verse 6, "I will not be afraid." What can men do to me? Many things can frighten us. Out there in that world they seem to have a collected list of all the things that can take care of us, terrorist, disease, loss of income, death, disloyal friends, highway accidents. But, we can go in the name of the Lord and know that He takes care of us and will provide for us and do the best thing for us. And, I think of spiritual hopelessness, verse 14, "Here, we do not have an enduring lasting city. We are looking for the city that is to come." He looked for a city that had foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

James T. Jeremiah:

Oh, young people today. Let me just challenge you to turn your eyes upon the Savior. In these days, when maybe trial and testings are yours. You may think about them back home and you may think about them around the college campus, and you may be facing difficulties of all kinds of degrees and kinds. But let me tell you, this Savior of ours is unchanging in His person. He's unchallenged in His power and He's unfailing in His provision. You can trust Him now as they've trusted Him before, and as He'll be here to trust tomorrow and tomorrow and on and on. May God help me today, not only to be a witness by what I say you and what you say, but a witness by how we behave in the service of the Lord Jesus.

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We love you. We're glad you're here. Any of us can help in any way to encourage you, come and see us.  
God bless you.