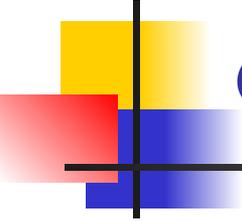


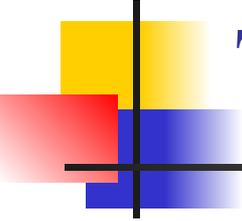
Behold Your God, Part 4: The Attributes of Omnipresence and Immutability





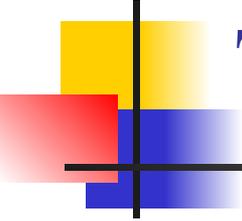
The Incommunicable Attributes of God

- The independence of God
- The eternity of God
- The omnipresence of God
- The immutability of God

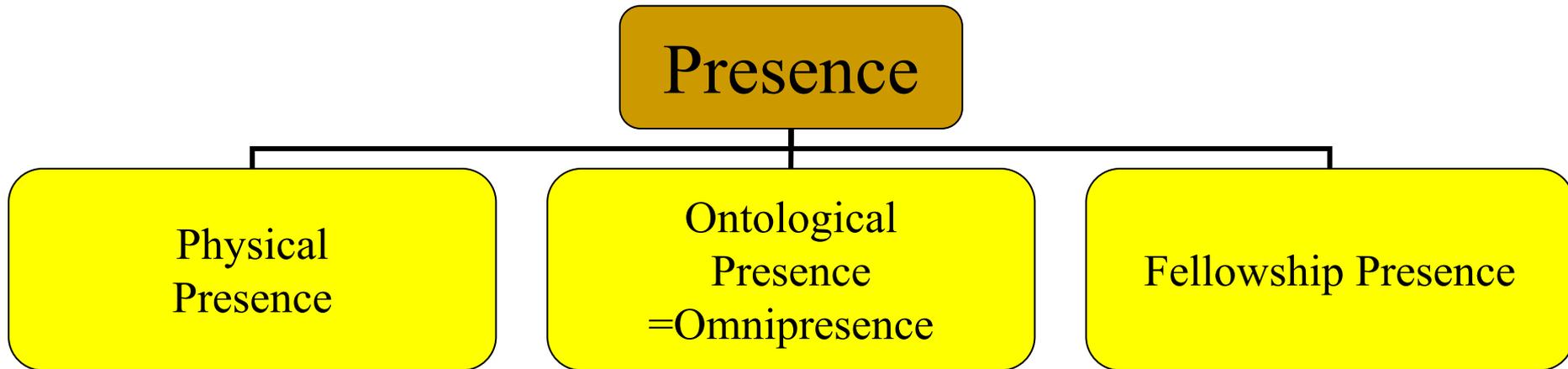


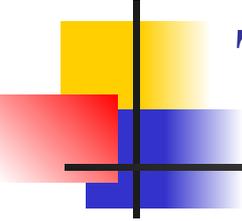
The Omnipresence of God

- From Latin “omni” meaning “all”
- Also known as the Immensity of God

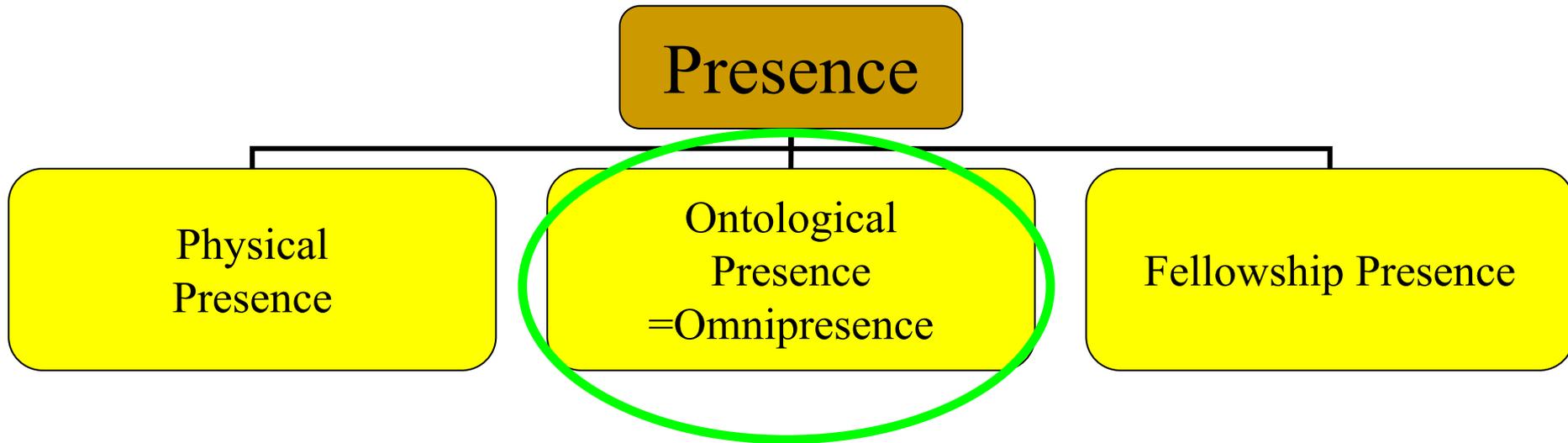


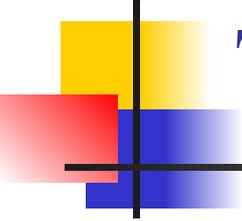
The Omnipresence of God





The Omnipresence of God

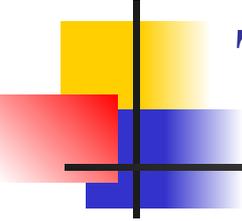




The Omnipresence of God

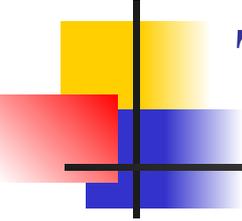
- Definition of Omnipresence:
 - “that perfection of the Divine Being by which He transcends all spatial limitations and yet is present in every point of space with His whole Being.”

--Berkof



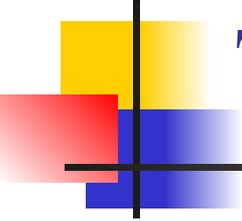
The Omnipresence of God

- God transcends all spatial limitations
- God is not limited by **space**
- God cannot be contained
 - **John 4:24:** “God is spirit.”
 - **1 Kings 8:27:** “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you.”
 - **Acts 7:48:** “However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands.”



The Omnipresence of God

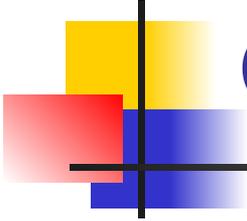
- Common mistakes:
 - God is confined to a single object (**idolatry**)
 - **Exodus 20:4:** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5** You shall not bow down to them or serve them.”

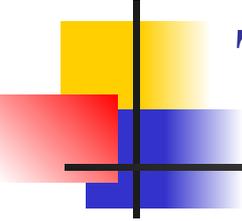


The Omnipresence of God

- Common mistakes:
 - God is confined to a single object (idolatry)
 - God is everything and everything is God
(Pantheism)

Theological Errors of the Omnipresence of God



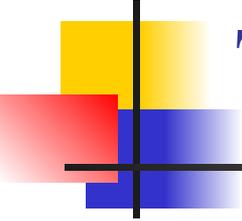


The Omnipresence of God

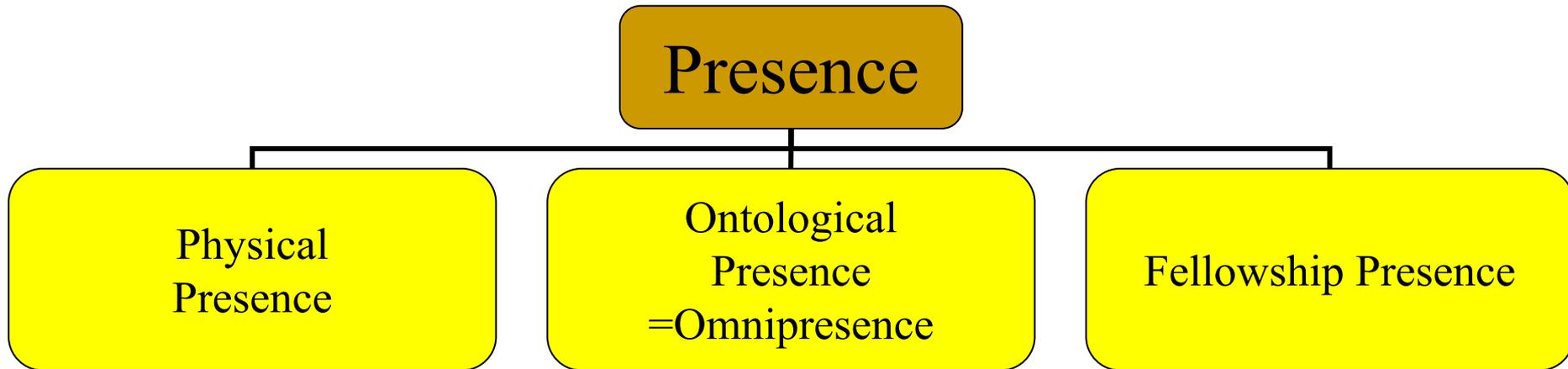
- God is present in every point of space with His whole Being

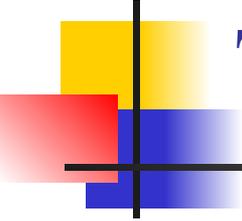
Psalm 139:7-10: Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me.”

Acts 17:28: “In Him, we live and move and have our being.”



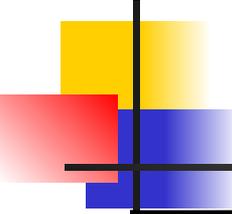
The Omnipresence of God





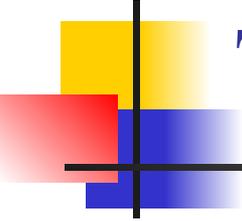
The Omnipresence of God

- God's Fellowship Presence:
- **Communion** with God that is not hindered by sin
 - **Galatians 4:6**: “God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.”
 - **Hebrews 13:5-6**: “He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,’ so that we confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.’”



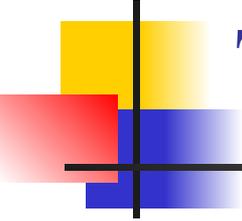
The Omnipresence of God

	With a Christian	With a Non Christian	Earth (Creation)	Hell	Heaven
Physical Presence					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ontological Presence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Fellowship Presence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



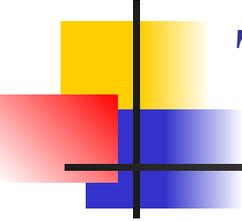
The Omnipresence of God

- God *is* present everywhere, but He acts differently in different places.
 - In hell, God is judging and pouring out wrath
 - In heaven, God is blessing



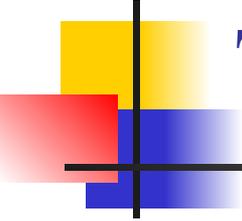
The Omnipresence of God

- Practical Application of Omnipresence:
 1. There is nowhere you can flee *from* God.
 1. **Proverbs 5:21** says, “For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord—and He watches all his paths.”



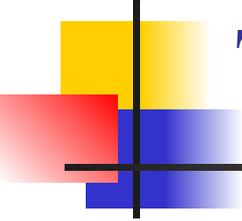
The Omnipresence of God

- Practical Application of Omnipresence:
 1. There is nowhere you can flee *from* God.
 2. There is nowhere you cannot flee *to* God.
 1. **Psalm 61:2:** “From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”



The Omnipresence of God

- Practical Application of Omnipresence:
 1. There is nowhere you can flee *from* God.
 2. There is nowhere you cannot flee *to* God.
 3. The only way to flee from God's presence to judge you is to flee into His presence to bless you



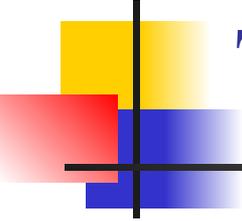
The Immutability of God

Karl Henry



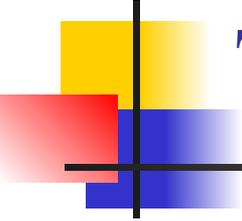
Karl Barth





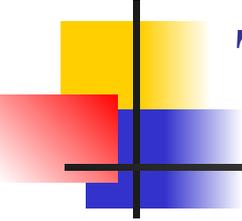
The Immutability of God

- Immutable: something that does not change
- Also known as the **unchangeableness** of God
- Unique to the God of the Bible



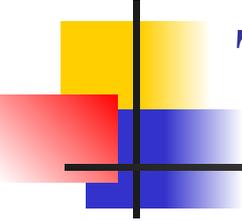
The Immutability of God

- Definition (Grudem):
 - “God is unchangeable in his being, attributes, purposes, and promises”



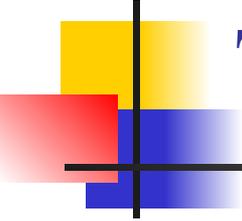
The Immutability of God

- God is unchangeable in His Being
 - **Malachi 3:6:** “For I, the Lord, do not change, therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”
 - **James 1:17** says God has “no variation or shifting shadow.”
 - **A.W. Pink:** “He cannot change for the better, for he is already perfect; and being perfect, he cannot change for the worse.”



The Immutability of God

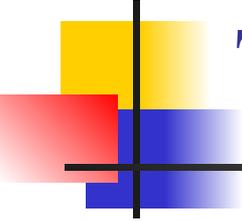
- God is unchangeable in His attributes
 - **Question 4 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism:** *What is God?*
 - Answer: “God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.”



The Immutability of God

- God is unchanging in His attributes

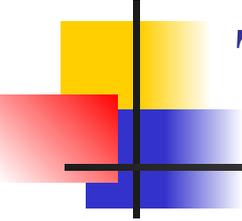
God is a	Adjectives	Nouns	Summary
Spirit	Infinite Eternal Unchangeable	Being Wisdom Power Holiness Justice Goodness Truth	GLORY



The Immutability of God

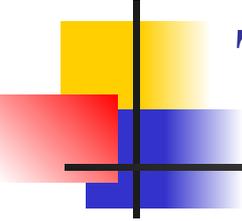
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God is a	Adjectives	Nouns	Summary
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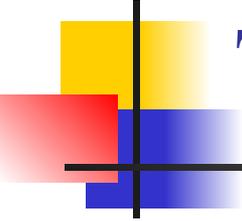
The Immutability of God

- God is unchangeable in His purposes
 - **Psalm 33:11:** “The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations.”
 - **Isaiah 46:10-11:** “My counsel shall stand and I will accomplish all my purpose...I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed and I will do it.”



The Immutability of God

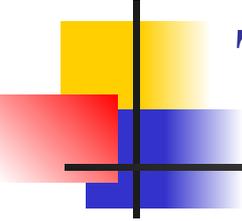
- God is unchangeable in His promises
 - **Numbers 23:19:** “God is not a man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should repent. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken and will he not fulfill it?”



The Immutability of God

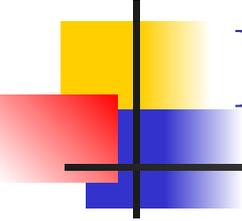
“The doctrine of God’s immutability is of the highest significance for religion. The contrast between being and becoming marks the difference between the Creator and the creature. Every creature is continually becoming. It is changeable, constantly striving, seeks rest and satisfaction, and finds this rest in God, in him alone, for only he is pure being and no becoming. Hence, in Scripture God is often called the Rock.”

--Herman Bavinck



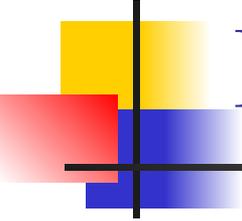
The Immutability of God

- Challenges to the doctrine of immutability
 - 1. Process Theology
 - 2. Open Theism
 - 3. Passages about “Divine Learning.”
 - 4. Passages about “Divine Repentance.”
- A subset of immutability: Impassibility (does God have emotion?)



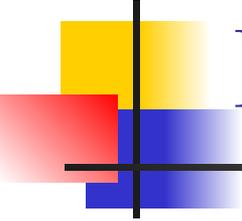
Divine “Repentance”

- Hebrew word “Naham,” translated as:
 - Repent
 - Relent
 - Regret
 - Grieved
 - Changed His Mind
- **Exodus 32:14:** “So the Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.”



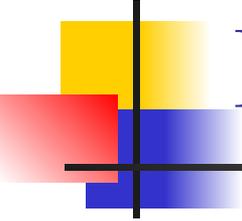
Divine “Repentance”

- God’s repentance means a change of **action**, not a change in nature or purpose.
 - **Numbers 23:19:** “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent.”
 - Naham: “to change path, to change action, change course, to turn from a former attitude.”



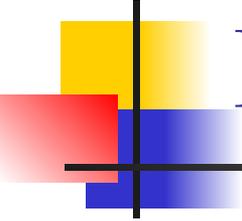
Divine “Repentance”

- God’s repentance is a reflection of a change in **creation**, not a change in God.
 - **Bruce Ware** says, “when God is said to repent, it indicates 1) his awareness that the human situation has altered and 2) his desire to act in a way fitting to this changed situation.”



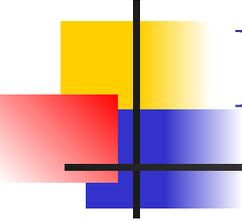
Divine “Repentance”

- **Jeremiah 18:8-10:** “If that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. 9 And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, 10 and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.”
- God always acts the same way toward evil and the same way toward good



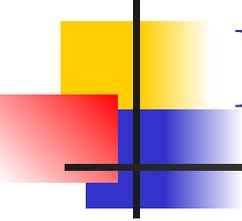
Divine “Repentance”

- **Jonah 3:10:** “When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.”
- The people repent so God relents



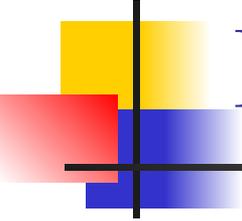
Divine “Repentance”

- **Ezekiel 24:14:** ‘I, the Lord, have spoken; it shall come to pass, I will do it, I will not go back, I will not spare, *I will not repent*; according to your ways and your doings I will judge you, says the Lord God.’
- The people do not repent, so God does not relent



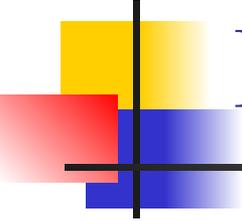
Divine “Repentance”

- When we repent, God relents.
- If we do not repent, God will not relent.
- The change of action affirms His immutable character.



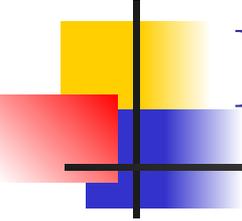
Divine “Repentance”

- God’s repentance was **sovereignly ordained**, not an unforeseen circumstance.
 - **Packer** says, “There is no suggestion that this reaction was not foreseen, or that it took God by surprise and was not provided for in his eternal plan. No change in his eternal purpose is implied when he begins to deal with a person in a new way.”



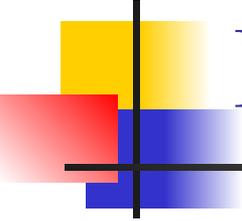
Divine “Repentance”

- Example 1: **1 Samuel 15:35**: “the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.”



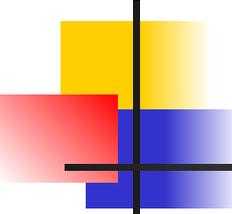
Divine “Repentance”

- Example 1: **1 Samuel 15:35**: “the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.”
 - **Genesis 49:10**: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah.”



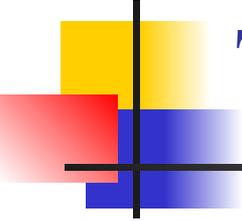
Divine “Repentance”

- Example 2:
- **Jonah 3:10:** “40 days and Nineveh will be destroyed.”
- God sends a human agent to bring about His own repentance.



Practical Application

- God's immutability makes the Bible relevant for us today.
 - **J.I Packer:** “It is true that in terms of space, time and culture, they and the historical epoch to which they belonged are a very long way away from us. But the link between them and us is not found at that level. The link is God himself. For the God with whom they had to do is the same God with whom we have to do. We could sharpen the point by saying *exactly* the same God; for God does not change. Thus it appears that the truth on which we must dwell, in order to dispel this feeling that there is an unbridgeable gulf between the position of men and women in the Bible times and in our own, is the truth of God's immutability.”



The Immutability of God

- God's Immutability allows us to rest in the gospel
 - **Hebrews 13:8:** "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

