

A CHANGING WORLD

By Pastor Greg Hooker

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrew 13:8).

I was born in Kingsport, Tn in 1958 to Allen and Wanda Hooker. Although my birthday is celebrated every year by my lovely wife, I don't remember this event having ever taken place, but my momma and historical documents corroborate it. During this same year, there were others born that you may recognize: Alan Jackson, Michael Jackson, Alec Baldwin, Andy Gibb, Billy Mays, Christiane Amanpour, Deborah Norville, Drew Carey, Ellen DeGeneres, Ice-T, Jamie Lee Curtis, Jeff Foxworthy, Kevin Bacon, Kevin Sorbo, Lex Luger, Madonna, Patricia Heaton, Scott Hamilton, Sharon Stone, Shaun Cassidy, and Thomas Kinkade. Along with the 'famous' people listed above, there are many 'notorious unmentionables' born in 1958 that I care not claim, or converse about!

During this approximately 54 years the Good Lord has allowed me to remain 'above ground' and not 'below it', I have witnessed an enormous amount of change – some for the better, but just as much, or more, for the worse. There have been 11 U.S. Presidents during this period, six Republicans and five Democrats. Furthermore, Vice Presidents, Heads of State, and countless Congressional Members have come and gone, always followed by enhanced and superior replacements of course!

In addition to change in leadership governing our country, we have experienced enormous change in technology. For example; instead of turning on a box and waiting for the tubes to heat up sufficiently to produce a static-filled radio program, we now have solid state circuit boards designed to flash both a crystal-clear image and sound over a flat screen TV that would have Nikola Tesla (credited with inventing the modern radio) scratching his head in awe and amazement.

From navigating cars, planes, boats and pretty much everything else, computer technology has changed every aspect of our lives and brought on a dependency that is remarkable, while at the same time, frightening. Computers run our appliances, toys, hearing aids, pace makers, clocks, cell phones, satellites and most anything else you can think of.

While we could spend another life-time listing all of the changes we have experienced over the last 54 years, let me just add one more area of change that has eternal benefits, as well as consequences – that of human morality. Even worse than Wall Street, moral values are in a downward plunge. They are eroding to the point where they no longer are recognizable. Right and wrong has been white-washed and diluted until what remains is a toxic concoction that makes God Himself sick!

This change of morality materializes when people refuse to believe in a Supreme Being who establishes the standard by which His creation is to live and conduct their lives – that standard being the Word of God. Moreover, this moral decline of a nation, or individual, is in direct proportion to the extent to which they refuse to believe and act upon the 'Thou Shalts' and 'Thou Shalt Nots' of the Bible. Since the

dawn of creation, when Adam and Eve broke God's rule not to eat of the forbidden fruit, man has rebelled against following the Lord's Word – instructions designed to govern our lives that we may live in peace and harmony with each other and with our Creator.

Sadly, however, we have stripped the Bible from our schools and raised a rebellious generation of juvenile delinquents 'doing that which is right in their own eye' - after all, there is no set standard to teach them what is right and wrong after the Lord's values were removed.

The same can also be said of our government. We have allowed a minority to remove the Ten Commandments from the walls of government in the name of separation of church and state. Our founding fathers would have had such individuals hung from the gallows in the middle of town square for all to witness the consequences of their actions.

While much change has occurred during my life-time, it is refreshing to know there is one thing that hasn't. Listen to Hebrews 13:8 once more, *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."* God is immutable - He doesn't change. We can always count on Him to be the same, even though change occurs around us.

Dear Lord, regardless of the change that transpires, you are always the same. You love us in spite of our faults and failures. Help us to live our lives in such a way that we honor your name and set godly examples for those around us. You are the *"same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."* Amen!

In Jesus name, your son, Greg .