



**UNCHANGABLE GRACE**  
**ROMANS 8:9-11**

# **We live in a universe where everything is in a state of change**

- The sun is burning out in about 5 billion years
- Mountains are ground down by forces of nature
- Earthquakes and volcanoes reshape the surface of the earth
- Disease reshapes families
- Children grow up and take on families of their own

# **We live in a universe where everything is in a state of change**

- Our bodies age and will one day go back to the earth from which they came from
- We live in an expanding universe. Every day the galaxies get farther apart from each other
- Even the supreme iron law of the universe: Nothing — absolutely nothing — can go faster than the speed of light is challenged

# **We live in a universe where everything is in a state of change**

- Paul Sutter July 02, 2016, “And then come the astronomers, always excited by the chance to mess up your comfort zone. They come barging in with a simple observation: Some galaxies are moving away from us...wait for it...faster than the speed of light.”

## Is it any wonder then, that mankind is looking for something to anchor their lives to?

- Something they can trust in and know with complete certainty it will be there tomorrow and the next day and for eternity
- **Hebrews 13:8 NLT** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- You can't say this of anything else in creation

**Is it any wonder then, that mankind is looking for something to anchor their lives to?**

- **Malachi 3:6 ESV** “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed (that’s grace).
- **Psalms 119:89 ESV** Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed (anchored) in the heavens.

## The Immutability of God

- The unchangeableness or immutability of God is that divine attribute which expresses the truth that in His nature and perfections, in His knowledge, will and purpose, He always remains the same in the fullness of His infinite and perfect Being.
  - Simply put – the grace of God is unchangeable because He and His Word is unchangeable
- You can be secure in your salvation – no greater truth

## Immutability of God

- **Romans 8:1 NLT** So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.
- Notice it does not say, “to those who have a passing grade in faith”, “to those who never fail Jesus”, “to those who never stomp their foot shake their fist and say NO to Jesus”
- Paul longs for the Christians in Rome to be secure in their faith in Jesus Christ



## And Jesus longs for you today to be just as secure

- **Romans 8:9-11 NLT** 9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

## And Jesus longs for you today to be just as secure

- **Romans 8:9-11 NLT** 10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

## This section was not written for unbelievers or non-Christians

- It was for those who had accepted and applied the forgiveness offered by God through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross
- **Romans 10:13 NIV** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

## This section was not written for unbelievers or non-Christians

- **Romans 8:8 NLT** “For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will.”
- Paul then immediately says, “But that is not you!!!”

# You are not controlled by your sinful nature because the Spirit of God is living in you

- Not Controlled – not under the full influence of corrupt desires and passions
  - Yes, we are and can be influenced by them, but there is another resident in your life
- **MSG** – “even though you still experience all the limitations of sin”

# You are not controlled by your sinful nature because the Spirit of God is living in you

- God is Living in you **MSG** – “God himself has taken up residence in your life”
  - He is not just a passing guest or an occasional visitor
  - He didn't bring his suitcases with him in anticipation of leaving
  - He has come to be the Master of the house

## You are not controlled by your sinful nature because the Spirit of God is living in you

- **1st Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV** 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

# You are not controlled by your sinful nature because the Spirit of God is living in you

- **Romans 6:6 NLT** We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.
  - Slaves – deprived of freedom, to be subject to another, to act in the interest of another, obey
- We are no longer slaves to sin because of God's unchangeable grace



## The Spirit of God is doing a mighty work in your life

- Not might be, not possibly, not if the star line up correctly – Is doing a mighty work in you
- **Philippians 1:6 NIV** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

## **The Spirit of God is doing a mighty work in your life**

- He came into your life to make known the mind and character of Christ in you, then empower you to imitate His life with ever increasing consistency
  - That mind and character that pleases God and brings blessings into your life
  - To anoint your life with truth and power to bring about change in your life

## The Spirit of God is doing a mighty work in your life

- To bring forth fruit of the Spirit in you
- **Galatians 5:22-23 NIV** 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience) , kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

## The Spirit of God is doing a mighty work in your life

- Paul tells us of the greatest work the Holy Spirit will do in our lives is beyond our ability to comprehend
  - **Vs. 11** The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

## **The Spirit of God is doing a mighty work in your life**

- Jesus' body of flesh died on the cross and was placed in a tomb where dead bodies are supposed to be
- Three days later this same Jesus came out of that tomb with a glorified body fit for eternity, never to die again

## The Spirit of God is doing a mighty work in your life

- What the Holy Spirit did in the life of Jesus, He will do in us as well
  - **vs. 11** “And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give (new/resurrection) life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”
  - Good news - It begins here in this life
- There is only one word for this, “Glory”
- This is all because of God’s unchangeable grace

## Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”

- **Romans 8:9b NLT** And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.
- All the blessings and benefits Paul has talked about in Romans 8 are only for those who are “in Christ Jesus”
  - Wrapped in the cross that Jesus bore
  - Wrapped in Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection

## Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”

- **John 3:3 NLT** Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”
  - Paul is saying, “If there is no Holy Spirit in your life you have not truly been born again.”



## **Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”**

- If you have not been born again then there is no heaven waiting for you and no power in your life to please God
  - The wages of your rebellion still separates you from a righteous God

## **Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”**

- Your might have been baptized, name on a church role
  - You can even preach or teach a Sunday School class –
  - But unless the Spirit of Christ has taken residence in your life, you are not His

## **Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”**

- Stated another way, “The person who demonstrates no desire for the things of God and no inclination to avoid sin or passion to please God is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit and thus does not belong to Christ.”
  - Even this seemingly harsh statement is God’s grace

## **Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”**

- Even this seemingly harsh statement is God’s grace
  - He could have just left you separated from Him because He is a just God – it is what you have earned
  - He could have turned His back to you because He is a righteous God – it is what is due to you

## **Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”**

- Even this seemingly harsh statement is God’s grace
  - But because He is a loving God, He created a way for you to be made right with Him and pleads with you this morning, “Be born again”

## Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”

- But we have been created with the ability to choose
- **Joshua 24:14-16 NLT** 14 “So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone

## Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”

- **Joshua 24:15-16 NLT** 15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

## **Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”**

- Unchangeable grace is available to you right now
  - As you look to the cross of Jesus Christ believing He paid your complete and total sin debt
  - Asking God to forgive you because the debt has been paid by Jesus



## Paul wants to make it plain, “No Holy Spirit, No Born Again.”

- Asking God to accept you just as He accepts Jesus
- Asking God to fill you with His Holy Spirit and make you born again
- **Romans 10:13 NIV** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

## D. L. Moody

- Near the end of his life, D. L. Moody said, “Soon you will read in the newspaper that I am dead. Don’t believe it for a moment. I will be more alive than ever before.”
  - He could say that because he was “in Christ”
- I can’t urge you strongly enough to make sure you can answer “yes” to the question, “Do you belong to Christ?”



**UNCHANGABLE GRACE**  
**ROMANS 8:9-11**