**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Jesus Christ**

**is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**Hebrews 13:8**

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(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted.)

**Hebrews 13**

**1 Let love of the brethren continue.**

**2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.**

**3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.**

4 **Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**

**5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"**

**Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua1:5**

**6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?" Psalm 118:6**

**7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.**

**8** **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.**

 The truth of Hebrews 13:8 that “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*” is witnessed in Genesis 1:1 and the Gospel of John 1:1-3 (& 14).

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being through Him,

and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

 The pre-existence of Christ and His eternal nature of “oneness” as God. . . is further amplified in . . .

**John 17:5** "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

**Yesterday, today and forever highlights the eternal nature of God and is consistent with.** . .

**Revelation 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." . . . And **Revelation 19:13** He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His name is called** **The Word of God**.”

 So, we have a biblical witness in the first book of the Bible (Genesis) to the last book of the Bible (Revelation) that Jesus Christ (God) is the same yesterday and today and forever.

 Identifying Jesus as the “Word of God”, in the last book of the Bible, brings the same witness the Apostle John gave in the 4th Gospel (John 1:14) but, in addition, the “Word” became flesh. This further amplifying that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

14 And the **Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

 God speaks to us again, as He did in the Gospel of John 1, testifying the same message through the same Apostle John in the book of 1 John.

**1 John 1:1** What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the **Word of Life.**

2 He was in the beginning with God

3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

**Yes, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever “as”** God’s eternal Word which contains the creative power and authority for all life. This knowledge and understanding strengthens us not to fear evil. The power that created life. . . the power that came to temporal life as one of us. . . the power that endured the Roman Cross. . . the power that rose from death’s tomb and walked amongst us. . . the power that indwells all Believers. . . is the power that will one day carry us through death’s door to a new eternal life in the oneness of God’s love.

I see that in a sea of secular-pagan offerings. . . that the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ is the most attractive and compelling call in which to surrender.

Through God’s manifestations as Jesus, His Word and indwelling Holy Spirit shields and protects Believers. God is with us and He will not fail or leave us. The best illustration of Christ’s intentional presence to be within us is witnessed in the Gospel of John.

**John 20:21** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

This is the one-time, during the incarnation ministry of the resurrected Messiah, when God demonstrated His desire and intent for all humanity to have the capacity to realize His eternal presence of peace. . . can be with them all the time. In addition, the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20, ends with . . .

“. . . I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

This does not mean we (Believers) will not face and go through hard times nor protect us from persecution. With God’s indwelling Spirit operating in our hearts and minds, we are strengthened to endure all things. Jesus endured the Cross, physically died, defeated death. . . actualized by Him leaving behind an empty tomb.

The Good News for all people is that the only power that can overcome the constant testing and tempting of sin, pounding on everyone’s heart’s-door. . . is the power that created us. . . is the power that defeated death, rose from the grave, walked among us for forty days, ascended to Heaven and will return. . . to not only judge the quick and the dead but call all Believers to reside together for an eternity in His Heaven. The Good News of God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

**The Whole Creation is Fallen and Humanity Struggles**

The Old Testament is replete with God’s declarations concerning the frailties of human fear, courage, blessings, dread, feeling of abandonment, anxieties and the need for restoration and salvation. The founding Patriarch, being Abram, grew-up in a world of uncertainties until God came to him with a guiding plan for his life and the life of his family and the world (Genesis 15:1). God did not want Abram to fear.

**Genesis 15:1**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying,

"Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."

 God speaks through Moses to assure the people that He will be with them as Joshua takes the lead into the Promised Land.

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them,

for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you.

He will not fail you or forsake you."

**Deuteronomy 31:8**

"The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you.

He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

**Deu****teronomy 33:29**

"Blessed are you, O Israel;

Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD,

Who is the shield of your help And the sword of your majesty!

So your enemies will cringe before you,

And you will tread upon their high places."

**Joshua 1:5** "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life.

Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you;

I will not fail you or forsake you.

 The message of all these Scriptures amplifies the words in Hebrews 13:8. . . that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**AMEN**

**Below is a list of verses providing encouragement.**

**Old Testament [Tanakh]**

**Psalm 27:1**

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall, I fear?

The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?

**Psalm 27:9**

Do not hide Your face from me,

Do not turn Your servant away in anger;

You have been my help;

Do not abandon me nor forsake me,

O God of my salvation!

**Psalm 33:20**

Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

**Psalm 40:17**

Since I am afflicted and needy, Let the Lord be mindful of me.

You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.

**Psalm 54:4**

Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.

**Psalm 56:4**

In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust;

I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?

**Psalm 56:11**

 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

**Psalm 94:17**

If the LORD had not been my help,

My soul would soon have dwelt in the abode of silence.

**Psalm 112:7**

He will not fear evil tidings;

His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

**Psalm 118:6-7**

**6** The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?

**7** The LORD is for me among those who help me;

Therefore, I will look with satisfaction on those who hate me.

**Psalm 125:1**

**A Song of Ascents.**

Those who trust in the LORD Are as Mount Zion,

which cannot be moved but abides forever.

**Proverbs 1:33**

"But he who listens to me shall live securely

And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

 **Isaiah 41:10**

Do not fear, for I am with you;

Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, surely, I will help you,

Surely, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

**Isaiah 41:14**

"Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you,"

declares the LORD, "and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

**Isaiah 43:2**

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,

Nor will the flame burn you.

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**New Testament**

**Matthew 10:28**

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul;

but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Ephesians 3:12**

in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

**Hebrews 4:16**

Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace,

so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need**.**

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

Therefore, brethren,

since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,

having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience

and our bodies washed with pure water.