



The Good News

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Does God continually change His Word?

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There are many religions today that believe that God continues to make changes to His Word today. Often referred to as 'continuous revelation', it is the religious belief that God did not stop revealing His will in the New Testament but rather continues to use selected individuals to make man aware of any changes or additions that need to be made to His will. Religions such as Mormonism (Joseph Smith), Catholicism (the Pope), and a host of other religions are almost entirely based upon this principle. This principle is so fundamental that if we could show a follower of one of these religions the truth about the static nature of the Gospel of Christ, they might be forced to reconsider their convictions. So, does God continue to change His Word today and how do we help others find the answer?

The short answer is "No", there is no such thing in the New Testament as continuous revelation. How can we be sure of this? Consider the following:

1) In **Hebrews 1:1-2** the Hebrew writer says, "*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds...*" The Hebrew writer makes a point of showing how God has changed the delivery of His word, moving from mere men (prophets) who were inspired by God to speak to His people, to the actual Son of God Himself. Considering that His Son has spoken to us, why would we need to go back to mere men again? The New Testament books, while being penned by men's hands, were inspired by the Holy Spirit sent from Christ, just as He promised the apostles in **John 16:13**.

2) In **II Peter 3:3-4**, Peter writes, "*...as His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great*

and precious promises..." Peter makes it clear to the saints that everything that we need for "life and godliness" has indeed been given to us by God through Christ, and that through this knowledge we have "great and precious promises". Why would God inspire Peter to write this if God knew He would be sending continual refinements and changes to this Gospel? This would make God a liar, and it is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18).

3) In **Galatians 1:8-9**, Paul makes a point to the brethren regarding turning away unto a false doctrine in which he says, "*But even if we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*" Paul received his Gospel straight from Jesus Christ Himself (Gal. 1:11-12). This being so, notice how Paul disallows his own ability to change what had already been delivered and even disallowed the authority of an angel to change what had been delivered. It is well known that Joseph Smith of the Mormon church claimed to have received a new dispensation at the direction of the angel Moroni. Yet, if what Paul says is true, even if this angel was a real angel, it is accursed according to Christ's own Gospel. This supposed angel brought a gospel that is indeed (despite claims to the contrary) a "different gospel" that contradicts the Gospel of Christ.

Two thousand years ago Christ established a Gospel that would need no refinements, and no changes, a Gospel that would be just as applicable 2,000 years later as it was when it was first given. In fact, Paul says in I Cor. 13:8-10 that miraculous gifts of prophecy and knowledge would one day cease, as they would no longer be needed once "that which is perfect" had come – the full knowledge of God in Christ written down. We have that knowledge now in the Bible. God's Son is speaking...are we listening?