

Be Not Afraid

Over the last five years all of us have changed, and the world around us has certainly changed. Do you remember the problems you had five years ago? Think back to 1988. How was your health then? Are you still living in the same home today? Have you gained any new friends? Did anyone dear to you die since then? The Reagan presidency ended in 1988. That year George Bush emerged victorious over Michael Dukakis with 58 percent of the nation's vote. The Olympic Games brought 13,000 athletes to Seoul, South Korea, and that same year the environment became headline news when a huge hole was discovered in the ozone layer of the



atmosphere.

Do you remember the summer of '88 when tons of medical waste washed up on the New Jersey shore? How about those huge gray whales, trapped in the ice off the northern coast of Alaska? They were saved by an international task force which chopped a path through the ice to help them reach the ocean. That same year Russia celebrated 1,000 years of Christianity, and Jimmy Swaggert was defrocked by the Assemblies of God Church. It all seems like yesterday.

Much has changed since 1988, except for three things that will never change:

1. God's merciful love. "I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6),
2. The promises of Christ. "Salvation (is found) in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Jesus came to save sinners and bring them to a knowledge of the truth. In spite of all that is changing in this world, God's word remains constant, and His mercy endures forever. The path to salvation revealed to us in Christ Jesus will never change. "Jesus said ... 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me'." (John 14:6).

3. In the midst of all that changed, the third thing which never will change is human nature. Human nature remains the same all through our growth from childhood to old age. Human beings are mortal. We live our time on earth, we die, and we pass on to the next world. Down through the ages the story of the human race remains the same. We are all sinners, fallen and redeemed, but our human nature and our human destiny never changes.

Because our destiny never changes, we

always experience a need for God's unchanging love. In the grand scheme of things we are all saints-in-training, and all those changes that have taken place over the years mean very little. In relation to eternity, what are today's problems? They will evaporate into thin air, like the memory of those events which took place just five years ago.

As you look to the future, examine your present set of fears and ambitions. Test your fears against the light of the Gospel. Are they worth all the worry? Not if you put your faith in the Lord. Trust the words of Jesus and, "Be not afraid." Rest in God's unchanging love, and all will be well.

*[For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, Be Not Afraid, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 E. 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.]*