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could be marketed under the category of the Good Old Days.

Whether or not a restaurant chain swaps logos or updates its interior décor is hardly a spiritual concern of any depth, yet some comparison is worth observing. What the public is upset by is the loss of predictability and reliability. Folks want certain comforts they can count on to remain unchanged. That is unlikely from a publicly traded company worth billions of dollars, but unchanging steadfastness is exactly what the Lord provides.

Unlike a certain 56-year-old company from Tennessee, there is in heaven a benevolent God who is consistent and unchanging through the ages. *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”* (James 1:17). Ditto His Son. *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”* (Hebrews 13:8). Deity is dependable.

Even the most seemingly permanent fixtures of creation will ultimately be replaced while the Creator Himself will remain changeless. *“Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end”* (Psalm 102:25-27).

Despite the stability God makes available, the people who need it often reject it. He had handed down to Israel a covenant and commandments which they repeatedly set aside in preference for various forms of idolatry. Before punishing them with 70 years of exile, He urged them to tread the proven paths of His will. *“Thus says Jehovah: ‘Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, “We will not walk in it”’”* (Jeremiah 6:16). While no one now living is subject to the Law of Moses, the theme of sticking to the way the Lord has paved remains timelessly relevant (Matthew 7:13-14).

To count on the unchanging God demands keeping to His ways, which is difficult to accomplish without the right companions. Thus, it is written, *“Do not associate with those given to change”* (Proverbs 24:21).

In a volatile world, there is staying power in the Divine.

## IT’S NARROW BECAUSE HE’S HOLY

Tim King, adapted

Say you’re at home one evening—your family’s with you, maybe some friends are over, there’s food on the table, good conversation, a peaceful night. Then you hear a knock at the door. You open it—and standing there is someone you’ve never met, but you know their reputation. They’ve got a long history of violence. They’re not sorry. They haven’t changed. They don’t respect your home, your values, or your authority—but they want in. Would you let them walk through your front door?

If you didn’t—would that mean you don’t love them? Of course not, because love isn’t just about being welcoming. It’s also about protecting what’s good. No one would blame you for guarding your home from someone who refuses to honor it.

Jesus said, *“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able”* (Luke 13:24). It’s not because God slammed the door. It’s because they wouldn’t come in on His terms. They didn’t want surrender. They just wanted access.

The gate isn’t narrow because God’s trying to keep people out. **It’s narrow because He’s holy.** It’s narrow because sin can’t fit through it. And He won’t adjust His standard to accommodate rebellion.

Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6). That’s not harsh. That’s honest. And when Jesus returns, He will deal out justice *“on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:8). That’s not talking about people who never had a chance. That’s about those who knowingly turned away from the one they were given.

*“He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”* (Hebrews 5:9). Not just those who admire Him or who claim His name, but those who actually submit their allegiance and obedience to Him.

So, the next time someone says, “I just don’t think God would shut people out,” maybe ask them gently: “Would you let someone into your life—into your most sacred space—if they rejected everything about who you are? Because that’s what people are asking God to do. And He’s not turning away the humble. He’s turning away the hard-hearted.

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**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

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God's not trying to keep anyone out—He's just not pretending that everyone wants to come in on His terms. His door is open wide, but the entrance still calls for full surrender—not just a nod in God's direction.

Real love responds to truth. And the truth is: Jesus isn't blocking the way. He is the way.

**GIVE ME THE BIBLE**

KDNF 840AM

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

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**CRACKER BARREL MIGHT CHANGE,  
BUT GOD DOES NOT**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Shares in Cracker Barrel stock plunged by up to 13% the day the casual dining chain revealed a new logo, dispensing with the iconic image of an old man clad in bib overalls sitting at a large barrel, and replacing it with plain text. This news followed an announcement one year earlier that dining rooms would be remodeled, reducing the clutter of antiques, enhancing lighting, and repainting in brighter colors. Social media is in an uproar as formerly loyal patrons observe a beloved brand changing everything about itself that was once familiar.

Cracker Barrel was established in Lebanon, Tennessee in 1969 and has since grown to 658 locations in 45 States. Until its new logo was unveiled, it had operated under the same recognizable sign since 1977, four years before the company went public; therefore, it is the only sign that represents the brand to the vast majority of diners who have ever patronized a Cracker Barrel. As a brand in the business of nostalgia, that should matter. And nostalgia is absolutely what Cracker Barrel sells. The name itself refers to the large barrels of soda crackers that stood in small town stores across the American South in the early 1900s, where neighbors used to stand and chat. The Old Country Stores attached to the restaurants sell vintage toys, classic movies, and retro candies and sodas. Until recently, everything this brand offered

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