

# NEW BEGINNINGS NEW CHALLENGES SAME JESUS



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

*Hebrews 13:8*

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The first month of our school years has come and gone. The meet n greets are a memory of the not-so-distant past. Friends reunited, Jr. High retreat was a success, field trips planned, sports are moving forward, and young minds are being shaped to the glory of God.

It should come as no surprise that during the excitement of 'new,' we have faced challenges. With things constantly changing, for many I talk to, this has caused a great deal of stress. To not know what might come next weighs heavy on our hearts and minds. Studies have shown the power of our brains to, under the right amount of stress and uncertainty, conjure up consistently the worst-case scenarios imaginable. I'd suggest this is more common than we would like to admit, but it can also cause us to forget a life-altering truth about Jesus.

As I have been praying for our students, our families, and our school as a whole, I have continually come back to this truth - **Jesus hasn't changed.**

The same Jesus who came to serve and not to be served, who demonstrated His great power over any other forces, who loved the unloveable, cared for the hurting, had compassion on the lost, who brought relief to the suffering, and made His love for us so evident. Jesus, who came on a mission to redeem and reconcile all things to Himself, is still doing just that, and He is still doing the same things He has always done. Nothing that is going on in our lives personally or our world collectively has changed who Jesus is or what He will do.

My encouragement to those reading this is this - "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" If you are looking to find peace, stay close to Him. If you are looking for comfort, read about Him. If you are desperate for hope, look at His nail-pierced hands, look to the empty tomb, see Him seated at the right hand of God mediating on our behalf. Jesus has shown us why we can trust and obey (I like that song). He calls to find rest by "*casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*" (1 Peter 5:7)

Let us not allow the cloud of uncertainty to cause us to forget who Jesus is, what He is like and how He loves. Jesus has not changed. Jesus is enough.

May the **consistency of Jesus** in an unpredictable world bring you unexplainable joy and peace today.

- Pastor Tim