

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

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ANCHORS IN TROUBLED TIMES

Heb. 6:17-19

Introduction:

1. Anchors are not a luxury, they are a necessity.
2. They guard the safety and survival of the ship and its crew.
3. The Anchor: Stabilizes, holds fast, and prevents the ship FIRM drifting.
4. The raging storm is not so devastating or threatening, when the anchor is securely fastened in the deep.
5. Spiritual Anchors have the same effect in our lives:
 - a. Often this world, like the restless sea, is a cruel and dangerous place. Life is filled with storms, tribulations, trials.
 - b. Suppose you: received a death message from your Dr., or got a call that one you loved had suddenly been killed in an accident. Or perhaps that your house had burned to the ground and you lost everything. How would you react to such information?

Would your anchor hold? Would you remain steadfast, or would you drift?
How do we handle the adversities of life, and survive?

6. God has provided us some "anchors to aid us in our journey down life's uneven pathway.
What might they be?

I. The Word of God--An Anchor In Troubled Times

- a. God's word is inspired--2Tim.3:16-17
 - Who created man?
 - Who better understands us?
 - Who could be a better counselor?

God's word offers us the security and stability we need to survive in this troubled world.

- b. Jesus used this anchor, when besieged by the devil--Mt. 4:3-11.

"The tempter came" What do you use for an anchor when the tempter comes?
When the devil tries to enter your life

- c. Among the mighty warriors in King David's army was a man named Eleazar, A man renowned for courage and valor in battle.

In 2Sam.23:9-10, his bravery was demonstrated. Israel's army confronted by a force of Philistines. All soldiers fled--except Eleazar. He fought single-handedly "he struck down the Philistines "till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword." (NIV)

III. The Church--An Anchor In Troubled Times

1. The Church is incomparably greater than all human institutions, sectarian or fraternal.
2. The Church is a building--1Cor.3:9 "Ye are God's building..." (this represents stability)
The true habitation of God--Eph. 2:2 A spiritual house.
3. The Church is the Family of God. Who better understands the struggles of my life as a Christian, than another Christian?
4. The Church as a body. "everyone members of one of another." Who better to understand the hurts, pain, anguish I feel than another member of the body?
One member hurts--whole body hurts "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it, or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it." 1Cor. 12:26

What an Anchor! A haven in times of trouble. A refuge in time of storm and unrest.

3. An Anchor, because: The Church is a divine institution, planned by God, not man, a spiritual house, not carnal. Its mission transcends time and reaches to eternity. It seeks my welfare currently and for future. It is led by divine standard not by a changing or human standard. It was purchased by blood the of Christ and not money.

IV. Hope--An Anchor In Troubled Times

Hope is the combination of desire plus expectation.

Many people desire things they never expect and most of us expect things we never desire.

Hope allows us to both desire and expect what God has in store for us.

Heb.6:17-20 "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of the promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whether the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

1. Christian's hope is based on "two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie."
 - a. God's promise
 - b. God's OathGod cannot lie (Tit. 1:2), hence our hope is assured.

2. Hope as an Anchor. Metaphor: The Christian is compared to a boat on the sea, storms threaten to drive ship from its port. As ship's anchor reaches down to the bottom of ocean, out of sight, so the Christian's anchor ascends out of sight into heaven where it is there fixed.

3. To serve any purpose the anchor must hold. The Christian's hope gives him stability in time of storm.

Will Your Anchor Hold? (Priscilla J.Owens)

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life-----When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,--Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?
We have an anchor that keeps the soul---Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the rock which cannot move,--Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.

4. The Christian's Hope:

A. It is the hope of the resurrection. "The hope of the resurrection of the dead" Acts 23:6
1Cor. 15:42-43 "It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body."

1Cor. 15:15 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."
Prov. 14:32 "The righteous hath hope in his death."

B. It is the hope of eternal life in heaven. 1Pet. 1:3-5 "to an inheritance incorruptable, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

It is a resurrection--to abide in the presence of God, where He shall wipe all tears from our eyes.
It is a resurrection--to free us from pain--Rev. 21:4
It is a resurrection--to rest from our labors--Rev. 14:13
It is a resurrection--to drink of water of life--Rev. 21:6
It is a resurrection--to eat of tree of life--Rev. 22:2

What hope! What an Anchor! In troubled times like these.

V. Christian Homes with Godly Parents

Godly parents are a tether and we should never detach ourselves from their teaching and influence.

1. In Luke 15, the prodigal "came to himself" in a far country, and said "I will arise and go to my father..."

2. Timothy--2Tim. 1:5 "When I call to remembrance. the unfeigned faith that is in thee first grandmother Lois and mother Eunice..."

3. The story of Moses mother is a good example of a mother teaching her child. And that teaching remaining with him.

4. The story is told of girl who turned bad. Her mother never gave up finding her and bringing her back. One day the mother sent picture of herself to all the bar rooms and places of ill repute in the city, with the inscription: " My darling I love you, please come home. One day by chance the girl saw the picture. Memories flooded her sinful soul and she was constrained to go home.

5. Prov. 1:8 "Forsake not the law of thy mother..."

Do you have these anchors in your life? If not, you need to avail yourself of their protection today.

- d. A great lesson for us.
 - 1. We need to cling to the sword of the spirit in our personal lives.
 - a. In our interpersonal relations with our families, on our jobs, in school and day by day decisions--we must seek God's guidance.
 - b. We can't rely on what is popular or what others are doing or what we "feel is right" but must ask "what does the bible say?" **HOW DOES GOD'S WORD APPLY TO THIS SITUATION?**
 - c. May our hands be frozen to the sword for guidance in our lives. What an anchor this is in troubled times.
 - 2. We should also cling to the sword when we seek guidance for the church. We know what happens when churches:
 - Lay aside the book
 - Operate without God's guidance
 - Rely on tradition or faulty human wisdom

This anchor will keep us from drifting.

II. Prayer--An Anchor In Troubled Times

"Pray without ceasing" 1Thess.5:17

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Phil.4:6

"Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer, except that which lies beyond the will of God."

"Prayer serves as an edge and border to preserve the web of life from unraveling."

- 1. These Bible characters have effectively used prayer:
 - a. Hannah--" In the bitterness of her soul, prayed for a son, and God heard and answered her prayer.
 - b. Nehemiah, when he saw the condition of Jerusalem "sat down and wept and mourned certain days and fasted and prayed before God."
 - c. Hezekiah, when he was sick, wept and begged God for more time.
 - d. Jesus, prayed in the shadow of the Cross..."Let this cup pass from me..."
 - e. The Church afflicted, abused, persecuted, prayed in Acts 4:31

What an Anchor!

- 2. We have a special relationship with God. A Father-Son relationship.

Have you ever had a special friend (father, son, mother) you could pour your heart out to, just bare your soul? From such encounters came strength. With the bitter ferment of life no longer bottled up inside, you could go on. This is why prayer is such a powerful anchor: "Prayer is the souls sincere desire, unuttered or expressed, The motion of a hidden fire, That trembles in the breast; Prayer is the burden of a sigh, the falling of a tear, the upward gleaming of an eye, when none but God is near.