

“The Anchor Of The Soul!”
Hebrews 6:13-20

Introduction:

1. **IE:** Do You Have A Favorite Vacation Spot? My Family Enjoys Pretty Much Any Place Where There Is A Beach And A Lot Of Water – Whether It Is The Waters Of The Atlantic Or Even Lake Michigan – It Is, In Part, The Water That Attracts Us! The Sound Of The Sea, The Smell Of The Salt Water, The Movement Of The Waves, The Amazing View Of Water All The Way To The Horizon – The Sea Is An Absolutely Beautiful Thing!
 - Even Though The Sea Is So Beautiful – It Can Also Be Quite Dangerous! We Have Seen How Powerful The Sea Can Be Through Recent Events Like Hurricane Katrina & The Tsunami Of South-East Asia!
 - Imagine How It Would Be To Be In A Small Boat In The Middle Of Hurricane Katrina! You Heard All The Warnings, But The Storm Took You By Surprise & You Were Unable To Get Back To Shore In Time! That Beautiful Sea Has Become Violent, Unstable & Dangerous! Your Boat Is Tossed By The Powerful Waves That Are Now Higher Than Your Boat! The Wind Is Tearing At Your Sails! The Rain & Sea-Water Is Quickly Filling Up The Ship! You Are Afraid! You Don’t Know What To Do! You Don’t Know Where To Go! You Don’t Know If You Are Going To Live Or To Die!
2. You Really Don’t Have To Imagine This Experience Too Hard, Because It Is An Experience You May Already Be In!
 - I’m Not Just Talking About A Literal Storm In The Middle Of The Ocean – But The Great Storms That Seem To Overtake You As You Live Your Life Every Day!
 - Life Often Seems So Beautiful And Wonderful!
 - You See The Beauty Of Creation; Feel The Warmth Of The Sun; Hear The Sounds Of Life – Beauty & Wonder Are All Around You!
 - But Then, When You Least Expect It, That Beautiful Life Suddenly Becomes Violent, Unstable & Dangerous!
 - Perhaps Someone In Your Family Becomes Seriously Ill Or Even Dies! Perhaps You Lose Your Job & You Don’t Know Where Your Next Paycheck Will Come From! Perhaps You Were Overtaken In A Sin & Are Now Suffering The Consequences!
 - **IE:** This Happened To Leigh Crockett, Pastor of Grace Baptist Church of Anderson, just last month when he was taken to the Community Hospital emergency room on August 4th. He went home one night, and started having convulsions and was confused and unable to respond to familiar questions. Tests at the hospital revealed a small amount of blood on his brain. Doctors suspected he had had a stroke. Pastor was then taken to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis where an MRI was run, revealing tumors both in his brain and his lungs. After a biopsy, doctors informed the family that Pastor Crockett had stage 4 lung cancer. This type of cancer is one of the worst and hardest to treat, and stage 4 is the highest stage. He was given only 10 months to live!
 - As The Song Says: “In Times Like These You Need A Savior, In Times Like These You Need An Anchor; Be Very Sure, Be Very Sure Your Anchor Holds And Grips The Solid Rock!”
3. When People Experience These Storms In Life, Where Do They Turn? Where Do They Look For Hope? Where Will You Turn? Where Will You Look For Hope?
 - In Hebrews 6:13-20, We See The Only True “Anchor Of The Soul!”
 - Read Passage!
 - This Passage Follows A Verse That Talks About Others Who Have Gone Before Us Who “Through Faith & Patience [Have] Inherit[ed] The Promises!”
 - And Then It Teaches To Us That The Promises God Has Made Are Absolutely Certain & It Further Reveals What Those Promises Are For!
 - God’s Promises Have Been Given To You So That You “Might Have A Strong Consolation, Who Have Fled For Refuge To Lay Hold Upon The Hope Set Before [You]: Which Hope You Have As An Anchor Of The Soul!”
 - When You Experience These Storms In Life, Where Should You Turn?
 - You Should Turn To The Only True Hope There Is!
 - Paul Begins His First Letter To Timothy By Telling Him About This Hope - Timothy 1:1 - “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope!”

- The Hope That Is Found In The Lord Jesus Christ & His Promises To His People!
 - The Hope You May Find In Doctors, Counselors, Employers, Family Members Will Often Prove To Be Temporary! But The Hope You Find In Christ Will Last Forever!
- 4. But Why Will The Hope You Find In Christ Last?
 - ***What Makes Our Hope In Christ So Strong?***
 - I Believe The Answer To This Question Is Found In The Passage We Just Read! Let's Discover Together What Makes Our Hope In Christ So Strong & Why Our Hope In Christ Is The Only True Anchor For Your Soul!

* What Makes Our Hope In Christ So Strong? Because Our Hope Is Based On:

1. *The Promises Of God!*

- Consider The Promise God Made To Abraham!
 - 6:13-15 - "For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee! And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise!"
 - When God Made This Promise To Abraham, He Had No Children, And He Was An Old Man – 75 Years Old! And His Wife Was Beyond Child-Bearing Years Also!
 - But God Made A Promise!
 - And According To Romans 4:19-22 Abraham Was: "Not weak in faith, [and] he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness!"
 - Abraham Had A Real Hope & Confidence That God Is A God Of His Word – He Keeps His Promises!
 - And Even Though He Waited 25 Years To See The Initial Fulfillment Of That Promise, God Did Keep His Promise To Abraham When His First Son Isaac Was Born – When Abraham Was 100 Years Old!
 - God Keeps His Promises!
- And This Fact Is What Makes Your Hope In Christ So Strong!

* What Else Makes Our Hope In Christ So Strong? Because Our Hope Is Based On:

2. *The Greatness Of God!*

- 6:13 - "For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself!"
 - God Is Alone Supreme!
 - No One Is Greater Than God!
 - No One Is Greater In Their Promises!
 - No One Is Greater In Their Own Person!
 - Because God Is Great, Everything He Is, Does & Says Is Great!
 - Psalm 72:18 - "Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things!"
 - God Is Great!
 - And This Is What Makes Your Hope In Christ So Strong!

* Another Reason Why Our Hope In Christ Is So Strong Is Because Our Hope Is Based On:

3. *The Constancy Of God!*

- His Changelessness Or Immutability!
 - Malachi 3:6 - "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed!"
 - **IE:** Picture Of Something That Is Not Transferable, Unalterable!
 - 6:16-17 - "For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath!"
 - People Change Their Minds All The Time!
 - God Never Changes – He Is Constant – He Is Immutable!

- And This Is What Makes Your Hope In Christ So Strong!

* Why Else Is Our Hope In Christ So Strong? Because Our Hope Is Based On:

4. The Truthfulness Of God!

- 6:18 - "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!"

- Here We See All Of These Characteristics Of God Coming Together!

- His Promises, His Greatness, His Constancy All Contribute To His Great Truthfulness!

- "It [Is] Impossible For God To Lie!"

- And He Proves His Truthfulness By Two Unchanging Facts:

- His Promise!

- The Confirmation Of His Promise With An Oath!

- Why Do People Use Oaths?

- Because Men Usually Don't Take Each Other At Their Word Entirely. An Oath Sets A Man's Word Apart As Something Serious, Solemn And True. God Didn't Need To Provide An Oath, But For Man's Sake, He Did So!

- And We Can Be Confident That "Thy Word Is Truth!" (John 17:17)

- And This Is What Makes Your Hope In Christ So Strong!

* A Final Reason Why Our Hope In Christ Is Strong Is That It Is Based On:

5. The Work Of Christ!

- "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less Than Jesus' Blood And Righteousness. I Dare Not Trust The Sweetest Frame, But Wholly Lean On Jesus' Name!"

- 6:20 - "Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec!"

- Jesus Christ Opened The Door To Heaven For Us Because Of His Work As The Great High Priest!

Conclusion:

1. If Your Hope Is In The Lord Jesus Christ, Your Hope Is Strong!

- Because It Is Not Based On Wishful Thinking! It Is Not Based On Other People, Who Constantly Change! But Because It Is Based Solidly Upon The Promise Of God, The Greatness Of God, The Constancy Of God, The Truthfulness Of God, And The Eternal Work Of The Lord Jesus Christ!

2. What Happens If You Do Not Have This Hope?

- Ephesians 2:12 - "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world!"

- And If You Are Without God In This World, You Will Be Without God Forever!

- 1 Corinthians 15:19 - "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable!"

3. What Happens When You Do Have This Hope?

- 6:19 - "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil!"

- Safety!

- Security!

- Sanctuary!

- You Will Enter The Place Where God Dwells!

4. Do You Have Hope? Where Is Your Hope? What Is The Basis Of Your Hope?

- Psalm 42:5 - "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God!"

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