

Words of Life

(September 26, 2007)

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

Hebrews 6:19

I love the Greek language. It is a picture language that carries with its words images that help convey their meaning. In this verse the word “anchor” is an interesting one. It comes from a root word which means curved or crooked arm. An anchor has a curved or crooked arm so when it is lowered into the sea and drags across the bottom the curved arm lodges against something strong enough to stop the motion of the ship. What a beautiful picture of hope to the believer in Christ.

This analogy also draws the comparison of the life of a believer to a ship. Ships were complex vessels. They were shrouded on the outside with a wooden hull, but on the inside they were a complex system of pulleys and tackle and gears. There were wheels and rudders and ropes and sails and oars. There were stores of supplies and navigation instruments which were all a part of their inner workings.

Similarly, our lives are complex creations. We have an outer covering, but inside that shell is a complex system. In the Bible, the word “soul” refers to that non physical part of the human being that constitutes our thoughts, our reasoning ability, the conceiving of ideas, the inner quest for the meaning of life, the part of us that desires contentment, the place where our emotions and personality reside. It is the essence of who we are and is an eternal part of our created being. And it all resides inside our outer covering. When we look at a person, we generally draw conclusions about them on the basis of what they look like. But there is much more to a person than what is on the outside. The way a person thinks, their personality, their emotions have virtually nothing to do with their outer covering. Although I must admit, the older I get I do find a relationship exists between my eye, my body and my emotions, especially in the morning!

Note in this verse that the soul NEEDS an anchor. It needs to lodge itself into something that will keep it steady in the midst of tremendous forces. Our thoughts, our emotions, and even our personality can change and be shaped by the tides of circumstance as they push against us. Without an anchor, the soul is in constant motion. If you have ever had motion sickness, you know it isn't a pleasant experience. Motion sickness of the soul sets in when our souls are moving and churning. I can't think of a more frustrating condition than a “floating soul”.

In the prior verses we learn there are two things in which the believer's hope is to be anchored. The first is God's word, and the second is His promise. God, who can not lie, promises to save all who have placed their trust in His Son Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. No matter what happens in this life, we have full assurance from God's word and His promise that heaven is in our future. We are a saved people. We are a heaven bound people. And we are blessed because we are. So many times we want the peace and joy and contentment we read is possible in this life. However, we also read that this life carries hardships. BUT...the life to come has no such hardships. And it is for eternity! The more heavenly minded we are, the more anchored our soul becomes. I trust this verse will bring a steadiness to your life this week as you allow its depth to penetrate to your soul and anchor you in the hope you have in Gods word and His promise.

Pastor Ted.

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63