

The Need for an Anchor

(Heb. 6:9-20)⁹ But, [δὲ] beloved, [ἀγαπητοί] we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.

Verse 9 begins a new paragraph and the first word is the word “*de*” which indicates that this paragraph is going to be in contrast to what was said in the previous paragraph.

...So, after the warning us about the danger of loving the milk and hating the meat ...

... after warning us about the danger of not maturing and remaining as spiritual infants ...

... the author of Hebrews now begins to encourage us of what God has done for us.

The author of this letter loves the people to whom he is writing ... the word “*agapetoi*” ... means beloved or dear friends—this is the only time this word occurs in the book of Hebrews.

He says, “Beloved, I am convinced the even better things that accompany (or are evident) in the lives of maturing Christians.”

¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

The author is giving us the reason why he is confident of better things for them ...

BECAUSE, God is not unjust therefore he will not forget their work and love ...

(What is that work of love?)

In Hebrew 10:32-34 we see that they endured suffering, public embarrassment, and even the loss of their personal property for sympathizing with those who were imprisoned for the cause of Christ.

¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end,¹² so that you will not be sluggish, [νωθροὶ] but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Verses 11 and 12 are one sentence and the author wants us (the readers) to be diligent—earnest, eager, passionate action ...

He wants us to demonstrate, to imitate the behavior of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

- **Faith** ... the empty hands of faith, that accepts the invisible and the future as though it were visible and present.
- **Patience** ... this is “steadfast endurance” to wait with longsuffering until the promise is received.

And notice the word “*nothroi*” (sluggish or lazy) ...

Back in 5:11, these Hebrew Christians are chastised because they have become lazy in their thinking and now, he challenges them to not become lazy their actions.

We are to imitate those who did not become lazy.

¹³ For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore [ὤμοσεν] by Himself,¹⁴ saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." ¹⁵ And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

I want you to notice the word “*omosen*” this word is 3rd person singular indicative aorist.

... something that happened and continues ...

(Like instead of saying Moses wrote... although it was 4000 years ago ... you would say Moses writes ... instead of saying God ‘swore’ we can more accurately say God ‘swears.’

... the oath is as valid, active, and current as it was when God first made it to Abraham.

... Look at what is happening here.

Verse 14 is a direct quote from Gen. 22 where God commands Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.

This story from Genesis tells the story of God testing Abraham ...where at the last moment God intervened and stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac.

... if you remember the story there was a ram nearby tangled up in the bushes and that was what Abraham ended up sacrificing.

At that point in Genesis 22, God doesn't merely repeat the promise he made to Abraham in Genesis 12 (and then repeated in Genesis 13, 15, 17, 18, and 21)

... but He swears an oath to Abraham about the promise He had previously made.

So why the repetition and adding of the oath?

Please understand, God did not need to make an oath on top of His promise...

... the only purpose of the oath God made in Genesis 22 was to even further strengthen Abraham's faith ...

16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute.¹⁷ In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,

The writer's logic here is one of moving from the lesser to the greater.

... the oaths (legal notarized) that people make always resolve (or end) the dispute ...

In the same way God's oath settles any question or doubt about God.

[This is true of humanity, it is more true of God.]

What God promises and declares will happen ... it is unchangeable.

And this is so wonderful!! ... look at verse 17 and notice the word “HEIRS.”

This word refers to all Christians of all times.

Every one of us **are heirs of the promise** God made to Abraham!

*And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.
(Gal. 3:29)*

God has made a promise, and God has further enforced that promise with an oath.

This should encourage us!

This should strengthen our faith!

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,²⁰ where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

... What are these 2 unchangeable things?

The **Promise to Abraham** in Genesis 12 and the **Oath to Abraham** in Genesis 22 ...

.. and by the way **GOD CANNOT LIE!**

And what is this promise and oath that God gave to Abraham all about ... Jesus Christ!!!

In Christ we have taken our refuge!

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the hope set before us!

(pause) ... and notice what the writer of Hebrews says about this hope ...

“we have an anchor for the soul that is sure and steadfast ... and anchor (or hope) that goes behind the veil.”

I want to ask and answer two very important questions.

1. Why does the soul need an anchor?

The writer says that this anchor, unlike humanity, is “steadfast and sure.”

Without God ... His absolute love as well as His absolute truth we are ungrounded and tossed about.

One of the things that is so amazing about Leonardo de Vinci (1452-1519) was the things he knew and understood about flight and the nature of wind.

Up until the 1800's most of what was known about him was that he was a painter, the artist who painted Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.

But in the early 1800's that changed as thousands of his writings and drawings were being discovered. One of those was a collection entitled the Codex on the flight of birds (1505-1506.)

... this was about 35k words with 500 sketches of flying machines, the flight of birds, and the nature of air.

In this Di Vinci wrote “Swimming in water teaches men how birds fly in the air.”

Di Vinci understood the similar natures of wind and water.

Living life in time and space is like living in water ... things are always moving, fluctuating, and always changing.

... and the older you get the more you realize this.

Time stops for no one ... people are born, people live, people die ... and those left behind move on.

I heard the story of a doctor in training and how when he was involved in the first case where someone died ...

... the doctor in charge (when his patient died) didn't melt into tears or take the rest of the day off—he just moved on to the next patient.

The doctor in training was floored.

I mean, don't all of us want to have such a life and such relationships that when we die there are some who will melt into tears ... some who will take the day off.

We all desire to have someone immutably, unchangeably, everlasting committed to us.

... that's why I got married. (ha)

... I wanted someone who (when I die) will melt into tears and take the rest of the day off.

We all desire to have someone immutably, unchangeably, everlasting committed to us...

No one, except God, can do that and be that.

As Augustine said: **Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.**"

As Corrie Ten Boom said, **"When you feel the stress of the storm ... then and only then you realize the value of the anchor."**

We were made by God who is eternal and unchangeable this is why constant uncertainty of life breaks us.

We are all tossed about, beaten and broken ... and the writer of Hebrews says that we need a steadfast and sure anchor.

There are two things that make for a good anchor ...

First, the anchor must be attached to us

Second, the anchor must go from where you and I are ... and go where you and I cannot go (beyond the veil)

... and in that place, it must be grounded, absolute, concrete, unmovable.

—the only one that fully qualifies to be such an anchor is Jesus Christ

2. How is such an anchor available to me?

¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil ...

The writer of Hebrews is clear and certain **“We have this hope in Christ as an anchor for our soul.”**

... and this is an anchor we desperately need.

We need Jesus Christ because **we tend to drift** ... but, HE is the same today, yesterday and forever!

Even the best of us from time to time began to lean in the wrong direction ...

... there is a way that **“seems right unto man but the end is death.”**

... the world lies to us and tells us this or that will give us satisfaction and joy ... and we believe it

... even though every other thing the world has told us has been a lie and has not satisfied

... but we think, well this one is true, this one will satisfy.

... no matter how many times the world has lied to us we still believe the next newest lie ...

... “perhaps this one will satisfy me” ...

... as **CS Lewis** has famously said, **we are far too easily pleased by false promises.**

We need Jesus to be our anchor **BUT the question is,** how is this anchor available to us?

Look ...

... Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Every year on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would sacrifice an unblemished animal and go into the Most Holy Place (holy of holies) and sprinkle the blood of that animal on the mercy seat.

Year after year this happened again and again and year after year the penalty for the people’s sins was deferred yet again for another year.

But then Jesus came ...

And in one dramatic act on the Cross of Calvary Jesus undid the work of Adam, inaugurated the Kingdom of God, and made atonement for our sins!

... and notice the word “forerunner” [Jesus has been called refuge and anchor]

Jesus, our great High Priest, has gone before us into the heavenlies ...

Our Lord Jesus Christ has taken upon Himself our humanity and has accomplished the work only He could accomplish.

... He is the only all-sufficient Redeemer.

I love the way the writer of Hebrews puts it in Hebrews 1:3 **“When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...”**

I cannot understand why everyone wouldn’t want Jesus.

In Him we are a new creation.

We are no longer the old self we were in Adam ... we are new people in Christ Jesus.

- ... and even though we continue to be plagued by sin,
- even though our best actions are tainted by pride ...
- even though we are not free from the dangers of anger, bitterness, self-pity, resentment, lust and so on...
- ... and we are defiled by sinful thoughts, motives and actions

But ... but ... but in spite of it all

“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”

Despite all our warts, moles, scars and flaws there is something that the true child of God knows for sure ...

... our true righteousness is not in ourselves ...

... our righteousness is in the Lord Jesus Christ ... the crucified and risen Savior.

... our hope for life isn't anchored to our achievements but in Him and his marvelous grace.

He is our righteousness ...

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21)

We need an anchor ... and that anchor is Jesus Christ!