

Hope, Our Anchor

by Dan Jenkins

Our world is so complex and is so rapidly changing. Televisions, phones, computers and other electronic devices become outdated so rapidly. We seemingly move from house to house and job to job far more frequently than before. Relationships and our roles in our family are so different as we rush through life. Is there nothing stable on which we can build our lives?

The answer is found in the closing verses of Hebrews chapter six. "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast and which enters the Presence behind the veil." God has given us hope and that hope is the anchor of our souls.

Hope is based on His immutable promise. The Bible clearly shows that we are saved by hope (Rom. 8:24) and this hope is the anchor of our souls. The writer of Hebrews ties hope to the promises of God. God's promises to Abraham enabled the patriarch to see what others could not see. God spoke the promise to Abraham and His word was enough. Yet God wanted Abraham to know how much he could trust Him. So God confirmed this with an oath (Heb. 6:13-16). The writer then says this same hope, our hope, is our anchor.

Hope is based on the promises which are secure. Hebrews say that the hope we have is sure and steadfast (Heb. 6:19). What could be more sure? The omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, eternal

and Almighty One have given us His promise and He cannot lie (Tit. 1:2). Life is filled with uncertainty but the hope we have is far beyond all certainty. It is the basis of all of life's decision. It is truly the anchor of the soul!

Hope is based on the promises which are steadfast. His promise and our hope are both sure and steadfast (Heb. 6:19). There is no variance in



the trustworthiness of our anchor. The life's philosophy of some is forced to change throughout their lives from day to day, but the faith we have is constant and unchanging. As our faith grows stronger, the anchor becomes more secure. It is always there. It is always secure. It is the anchor for our soul.

Hope is based on the life of Jesus and reaches from earth to heaven. Look again at Hebrews six. Jesus our forerunner has carried

the anchor and has taken it into the very presence of God. No wonder it is an anchor sure and steadfast. The anchor line extends from our hearts, from our trials, and reaches into heaven. Hold on to that anchor. It will never move for it is anchored in eternity. God, hasten the day when we arrive at the place where we have anchored our lives! God, we thank You for the anchor You have given to us!

Living with Pain

Robert Notgrass

When there are those in pain around us, we feel helpless. We may stand beside them, hug them, tell them that we love them as we observe their tears, listen to their cries and realize that there is a huge gulf between us. It seems that we cannot penetrate their suffering, but to watch. We feel weak. Sometimes in these situations, there is even unexpected anger against God. Some even ask, "God, why us?" as we see the beauty of our loved ones go through the shadow of death (Psa. 23:4).

There are some who believe that when this happens, that God is displeased with our life. Faith healers believe we don't have enough faith. Others claim that it is God's will to make us suffer like this. In all these words, many have little advice to give people. Why do people have to suffer? Where is God when it hurts?

For those who have not suffered with the loss of a loved one, they have an inadequate view of suffering. People speak and ask how can a God say He loves us and then allow His people to die from a holocaust, from diseases like leukemia, cancer and allow over a billion people each night to go to bed hungry with no food. What does it all mean? I think it is interesting that we do not gather around and discuss what it means to smell or what it mean to taste. Why do we have these sensations? No one debates these ideas, but people react so differently against the sensations of pain when it happens.

The problems of pain and suffering seems to never fade away, never seems to really be answered. The problem of pain is like a big mystery. Nevertheless, pain certainly alerts our body that something is wrong and we focus on that area. Pain certainly is not an afterthought from God, it is part of His marvelous design for the body. Even though things happen through life, the pain we feel, makes our lives miserable.

Pain will have no real solution while on earth. But, we can sustain ourselves by faith in God and

faith in His Son who is the great Physician (Gal. 2:20). He has the ability to remove our pain. God knows why we hurt and when we think on God, our pain can melt away (Job 38-41). To know that God gives us joy and love, happiness and goodness (Gal. 5:22). To know that in the middle of our confusion and frustrations of life, we find our Lord who is worthy of our trust (Rev. 4:11). We need to know in times like this that God has been here from the beginning (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 1:8) and He allows pain so that we will turn to Him focusing on a time when there will be no more pain. He allows us to cry like Job (Job 14) knowing that God comforts the poor and suffering, that He nourishes our souls and that when we are hurting, crying out, we may go to Him, casting our cares on Him (1 Pet. 5:7), having an intimate relationship with Him (Jn. 17:20-22). He is always with us and so are the members of the Lord's body who are commanded to bear up those who hurt to relieve them in their suffering (Gal. 6:2; 1 Thess. 5:11).

Be comforted to know that God is waiting for you and I, knowing that one day there will be victory over the world where God will take us with Him to a new home where He will wipe away our tears and where there will be no more pain (Rev. 21:1-4). Death is swallowed up in victory and our faith overcomes the world (1 Cor. 15:54; 1 Jn. 5:4). Remember that Jesus said, "Let



not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (Jn. 14:1-3). Comfort one another with these words as we live through the pains in life.

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program - Dickie Russell

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - Delton McGuire, Director
House to House, Heart to Heart
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

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Prayer List

Velma McDougald returned to the hospital, Zale Lipsy room 827, to undergo more treatment.

Meagan Gould is doing well with her chemo treatments.

Willie Winters went to the hospital Thursday evening, but is back home now.

Continue to Remember: Bill Abercrombie, Don Bowen, Melba & Eleanor Bower, Catherine Brown, Gale Garner, Hank Jett, Bud Moore, Ruth Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Irene Ross, Helen Strange, Pat Wheat, Melissa Armstrong, Meagan Gould, Dalton McCullough, Barbara Wrinkle.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Josh Moehring, Ryan Payne, Devin Peterson, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, Payton Weaver, and Kye White.

Southwest Youth Day, Saturday, April 11. We will leave at 11:30 AM. Please, eat lunch before. Dinner will be served at the Southwest building. We should arrive back around 8:30 PM. Sign up in the foyer.

Southwest Lectures Tuesday, April 14. at 6:00 AM. Please, sign up if you'd like to go. We need at least 8 to make the trip.

Birthdays This Week:

- March 22 - Beverly Abercrombie
- March 24 - Tyler Baumgartner
- March 27 - Brian Beamon
- March 28 - Wade Hall

Next Week's Bible Class

1 Samuel 16-17
David Meets Goliath

Announcements

New Address: Barbara Wrinkle is now at Wesley Woods Health and Rehabilitation in Waco. The address is: 1700 Woodgate Dr., Waco, TX 76712.

Congratulations to the Cammocks on the birth of Simon James. If you'd like to send a monetary gift, see Julie Dilbeck or David Shastid by March 29.

Brief Prom Alternative Meeting for youth parents and deacons this Wednesday night after services in the Family Room.

5th Sunday Next Week! Bring your favorite dish and plan to stay for the food and fellowship. Our second service, immediately after lunch, will be led by the young men.

Morton St. Church of Christ in Denison is hosting a Ladies' Day this Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 AM.

The Howe Congregation is hosting a Men's Day this Saturday, March 28 at 9:00 AM.

Westhill Ladies' Day Saturday, April 11 at 8:30 AM. Sign up in foyer or online. ****We need** used metal (not plastic) watering cans & tea cups with or w/ out saucers (not heirlooms) for decorating. See Vicki Ivy or Donna Drain for more information.**

Records for March 15, 2015

Bible Class	173
AM Worship	283
PM Worship	165
Wednesday	n/c
Contribution	\$10,037.05

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	James Horn
Opening Prayer	Corey Tackett
Communion Leader	Billy Roughton
Communion Servers	
James Ainsworth	Wade Braly
David Dilbeck	Brian Hand
James Horn	Clay Jackson
Percell Milton	Greg Olsen
James Olsen	Billy Roughton
Jose Sosa	Justin Williams
Closing Prayer	Don Ivy
Nursery	Ericka Kinkade & Sloane Slaughter
PM Song Leader	David Dilbeck
PM Opening Prayer	George Schmidt
PM Closing Prayer	Dalton Shastid
Wed. Song Leader	Brody Owens
Wed. Devo	Micah Haden
March Contact Elder	Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228