

The Anchor Holds

Hebrews 6 – December 26, 2021

INTRODUCTION: *Review...*

- What is the theme of Hebrews? *Jesus is better.*
- To whom is the letter addressed? *The Hebrews – Jewish converts who were being tempted to return to Judaism, most likely due to the persecution they were enduring.*
- What is the central teaching of Hebrews? *Grow up! Key text: Hebrews 5:11-14*
 - The author is exhorting the Hebrews to push on and continue to the point of spiritual maturity.
- This is our third week in chapter 6. This passage is often stated as the proof text that someone can lose their salvation. But within the very same passage, there is one of the strongest arguments for eternal security. Last week we pointed out that there are two elements that contribute to providing assurance of salvation:
 - The fruit salvation produces (last week's lesson).
 - The anchor that stabilizes our salvation (this week's lesson).

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Appeal for Spiritual Maturity (vs. 1-12) *Review – keep it quick!*
 - a. The author's challenge (vs. 1-3): The writer issues a twofold challenge to his audience.
 - i. Don't go backward (vs. 1-2)! Leave behind the elementary foundations of the faith (sounds like the end of Hebrews 5).
 - ii. Do go forward (vs. 3)! Push on to maturity in Christ.
 - b. The author's concern (vs. 4-8): He warns his audience to not only profess faith, but to actually possess it.
 - c. The author's confidence (vs. 9-12): He points out their spiritual fruitfulness and exhorts them to keep pushing forward.
 - i. These verses remind us that one source of our assurance is in our fruit. He specifically mentions our "labor of love" (vs. 10). Love for others is one of the premier evidences of one's salvation.
 - ii. After exhorting us to give "diligence" to growing spiritually (vs. 11), he warns us to not become spiritually "slothful" (vs. 12) but to imitate faithful followers of Christ.
2. The Promise of God (vs. 13-20)
 - a. If our salvation is based completely on our good works and efforts to secure it, we will never have 100% assurance. Thankfully, we have something much better – we have the promise of God that our salvation is secure.
 - b. First, we see the promise of God illustrated (vs. 13-15).
 - i. Vs. 13: A man we all know (cf. Genesis 22:16). Abraham is the foremost OT believer who, by faith, claimed the promises of God, and then was willing to wait on the fulfillment of those promises.
 - ii. Vs. 14: A miracle we all know (cf. Genesis 18:11). God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy when he was 100 years old.
 - iii. Vs. 15: Another reminder that God always keeps His promises.
 - c. Second, we see the promise of God is immutable (vs. 16-17).
 - i. Vs. 16-17: God gave Abraham a promise on top of a promise. Our assurance of salvation is guaranteed by God's promise and God's oath.

- ii. Vs. 17: Two key words in this verse that describe God's promises are "immutability" (unchanging) and "confirmed" (guaranteed).
 - d. Third, the promise of God is impossible to break (vs. 18).
 - i. What a beautiful phrase, "it is impossible for God to lie."
 - ii. God promised His eternal life on the basis of His own integrity. If you lose your salvation, God loses more than you do; He loses His holy sacred character.
 - iii. Interesting note: If God gave eternal life and then took it away, it wouldn't have been eternal life in the first place. It would have been conditional or probational life.
 - iv. This provides the Christian "a strong consolation" or encouragement.
- 3. The Anchor Holds (vs. 19-20)
 - a. Verse 19 is one of the most beautiful verses in all the Bible. God has provided us "an anchor of the soul." The anchor was a symbol of hope in the early church.
 - b. Vs. 19: Our anchor is sure: it cannot break.
 - c. Vs. 19: Our anchor is steadfast: it cannot slip.
 - d. Vs. 20: Our anchor is our Savior. The verse refers to a "forerunner."
 - i. This is a reference to an advance guard which would go before a king to prepare the way for him. It is one who comes to a place where the rest are to follow.
 - ii. The OT priest was not a forerunner because no one could follow him into the holy of holies (see the end of verse 19).
 - iii. But Jesus has "entered into that within the veil" (vs. 19) so that one day we may follow. We have a Friend on the inside!

APPLICATION:

- Role Play: You (the teacher) are someone who is struggling with assurance of salvation. Have the class walk you through the biblical case for eternal security.

CONCLUSION:

The word "hope" mean anchor rope. In past times, in every harbor great stones were embedded in the ground near the water's edge. They served as moorings for sailing vessels. Sometimes the ships could not make it to the mooring under their own sail. In such cases a "forerunner" would go ashore in a small boat with a line which would be tied to the anchor rock. When the rope was fastened, those on the ship would pull the ship to shore with the anchor rope.

Our Lord Jesus, the great forerunner, has gone into glory and tied the ropes of our salvation to His throne. Though we cannot see that rope, it is tied firmly to the Rock of Ages.