

Anchor of the Soul; Hebrews 6:17-20

I. Drifting

- A. Do you remember daydreaming in school
 - 1. Staring out the window of your classroom thinking about something that put a smile on your face
 - 2. Until your teacher called on you to answer a question you didn't hear
- B. While daydreaming might have been a pleasant way to put a smile on your face, it did not help you reach your goal of passing your math class
- C. Just like daydreaming, sometimes we find ourselves drifting through life
 - 1. We wake up, go through the motions, go to sleep — rinse, repeat
 - 2. We find ourselves on with the cruise control on, but no one at the wheel
 - 3. Adrift in the sea of life with no anchor keeping us where we need to be
- D. Hebrews 6:19–20 (ESV); ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

II. Anchor

- A. Holds the ship
 - 1. Keeps it from drifting
 - 2. USN Salvage ship USS Safeguard deployed to recover an F-16 that crashed into the Sea of Japan
 - 3. The USS Safeguard used 3 anchors to keep the ship from moving while it recovered the aircraft
 - 4. Divers are connected to the ship, all recovery operations are connected to the ship — it cannot move or people might die
- B. Without an anchor you have a shipwreck
 - 1. Shipping lanes (path)
 - 2. Rocks and coral (rocky ground)
 - 3. Grass and seaweed bottom (thorns and thistles)

III. Hope

- A. Hope is our anchor — confident expectation
- B. Hebrews 6:17–18 (ESV); ¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.
- C. The context is the promise given to Abraham
- D. Hebrews 6:13–14 (ESV); ¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.”
- E. The Hebrew writer refers back to God's command to Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac
- F. Genesis 22:15–19 (ESV); ¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.
 - 1. Can you imagine Abraham's hope as he is getting ready to sacrifice his son?
 - 2. “God desired to show more convincingly” — through the attempted sacrifice of Isaac!

3. The Almighty Creator wanted to make sure that Abraham fully understood the promise given to him in Genesis 12:1-3
 4. He created a situation where He would swear and oath to Abraham
 5. Can you imagine the God of heaven and earth wanting — no, desiring — to swear an oath to His creation?
 - a) He gave Abraham the promise in Genesis 12:1-3
 - b) He made a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15
 - c) But that was not enough for God! He wanted to swear an oath!
 - d) (If you are ever of the mindset that God does not want you, please re-read these Scriptures)
- G. This same oath that God gave to Abraham He has given to us, fulfilled by His Son, Jesus the Christ
- H. The two “unchangeable things”
1. The promise of God and the presence of Jesus
 2. We are recipients of that promise!
 3. Galatians 3:28–29 (ESV); ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.
 4. But only if we are anchored in Jesus — our anchor for the soul
 5. Our “Hope” entered into the inner place behind the curtain
 6. He suffered a cruel and painful death “on our behalf”
 7. He wanted to remove the barrier between Him and us (the curtain)
- IV. Hold on to the anchor!
- A. People are drowning in sin
 - B. The only one who can change that is Jesus, our Hope
 - C. And we have the promise of God and the presence of Jesus as our anchor