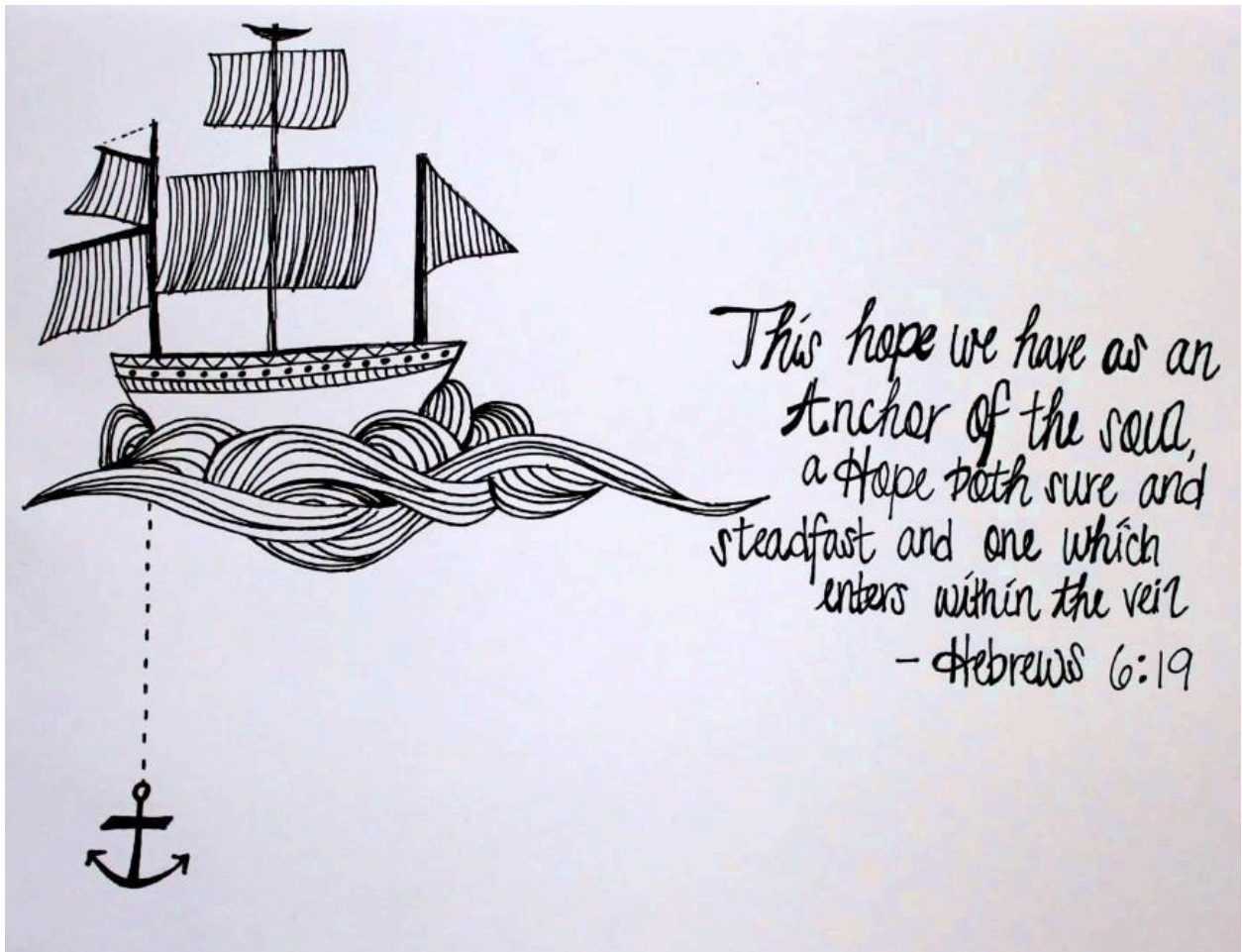


JESUS: ANCHOR OF MY SOUL

2015 Winter Retreat

2015.12.27-29. Lake Tawakoni



This hope we have as an
Anchor of the soul,
a Hope both sure and
steadfast and one which
enters within the veil
- Hebrews 6:19

ANCHOR OF MY SOUL

The Book of Hebrews

Pioneer of Our Salvation (Ch 1-2)

: Pioneer vs messenger

: How great our salvation is

God has spoken fully and finally in His Son (1:1-4)

- Why is the message of Jesus better than the one of prophets? (1-2)
- How does the bible describe His superiority? (3)
- They thought prophets received God's message through angels. Message of Jesus is perfect and important than prophet's message because He is superior than () (4)

Because, Son is superior to angels (1:5-14)

- He is God's Son (v) while Angels served Him (v)
- He is God's anointed King (v) and Creator (v) and everlasting (v)
- He has authority of the Most Highness (v) while angels serve God's people (v)

Therefore, Do not neglect the great salvation (2:1-4)

- The more we realize its importance, the more we pay attention.
- What is "the messages spoken through angels"? (v2. See Exodus 19-20)
- Penalty for the violation of the Mosaic Law (message from angel) was death in the desert. What will be the penalty for the refusal of the gospel?
- What is neglecting the great salvation?

Here is the great salvation (2:5-10)

- Read 2:6-8. This amazing prophecy is not for angel, but human. This is about our salvation.
- The Psalm says that, but it is not yet accomplished (v).
- But, Jesus' ministry exactly matches with this psalm.
- Why was He lowered? (10)

For this, God sent His son in flesh to lead us (2:10-18)

- God is creator of life and all things. He planned the salvation this way. It was good and proper to God's viewpoint. (10)

- Why sufferings of Jesus made him perfect leader of our salvation? (10)
- Jesus was not ashamed to be called brother of us. It's an amazing grace. (11)
- Here is reason why Jesus became in flesh and die. (14) 1. He became like us in order to die and resurrect to destroy power of death. He needed to conquer death by human flesh so that he opened the door for us to conquer the death. we win over death out of flesh, it is not true victory. Being fallen by sinful flesh, salvation is to have glorified flesh. Though the completion of our salvation happens when Jesus comes, we can taste the victory over sin by the power of the Holy Spirit here. If Salvation is to conquer the power of sin and death by the power of His blood. That's your part of the work.
- Why are we under slavery? (15)
- How does Jesus' resurrection remove this fear? No one has ever returned from death and told people that God is faithful and protect those who trust in God.
- Salvation is free from sin and death. Therefore, we need a merciful and faithful high priest to make atonement of our sins (v)
- V17-18 tells Jesus' two tasks. What are they?

Greatness of the salvation (2:6-8) comes from

- Greatness of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation
- The price He paid for it

Closing questions

- Do you think our salvation is so great?
- What is your act of neglecting this salvation?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the pioneer of our salvation?
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ANCHOR OF MY SOUL

Jesus High Priest: the Anchor of Our Soul (Ch 3-6)

: *What is the anchor of your soul?*

: *We will see how trustworthy Jesus our High Priest is*

High Priest Jesus (3:1-6)

- What are the titles given to Jesus (v1)? (): sent from God. (): ministers to save us from sin, mediates and defends us before God.
- What is difference when Jesus is compared to Moses? (vv. 2-6)
- We are His house. Jesus as the Son serves the house faithfully. What a great confidence we have! We will not fail. (v)

Under Moses' Leading, Israel Failed to enter the Land of Canaan (3:7-19)

- The failure of the Israelite is a warning to us. They complained and didn't trust God. Their blessing was "God with them" but they loved blessings from the world. They didn't want rest from God, so not allowed. Isn't God fair? See how much God is not pleased with them. (11)
- What hardens our heart to disobedience? (13)
- What would be sin's deception? (hint: see how the serpent deceived Eve.)
- The reason of their failure was change of initial confidence: They came out of Egypt and then rebelled to God. Especially v17 says God was angry to the Israelites who were saved from Egypt, not to pagans.
- Initial confidence doesn't mean unclear and childish understanding of beginner Christians. Initial confidence refers to first love and pure trust in God. Bible warns about change of it. This change is called hardening of heart followed by disobedience.
- Our journey to heaven needs endurance in faith. (v)
- Q: What is the main reason of their failure?

Therefore, God's promise is still open (4:1-13)

- Not all of the Israelites who came out of Egypt entered the land of Canaan because of their unbelief (v2). What is their unbelief in specific? (hint: Number 13:26-33)
- Therefore, God's promise is still open. 4:11-13. Let's make every effort to enter this rest by obedience. God's word touches our inner thoughts and reveals hidden desires. The word convicts us and exposes all our thoughts. That's why obedience from the heart is required.

Now, we need a great High priest in order to enter God's rest (4:14-16)

- Now, we need to hold fast on Jesus Christ, for we know our weakness. He is our side always.

- Moses, lead of the Israelite, failed to enter the land. But, Jesus succeeded into heaven (v).
- Why is Jesus a great high priest? Moses was a good mediator but failed because of His sin. He failed to be a mediator when people kept complaining. (See Numbers 20:6-13)
 - His ability (v14): ()
 - His attitude (v15) : ()
- Therefore, if one knows He is a great high priest, what does he do? (v16)

Here is Jesus' qualification to be a high priest (5:1-10)

- Chosen from the people who the priest will represent. Why? (2) But what is short coming for this? (3)
- Chosen by God (4-5)
- Vv.7-10 sacrifice and prayer of Jesus for our sins were accepted. His resurrection shows that.
- Obedience of Jesus, being a Son, made Him a perfect pioneer of our salvation. For Jesus to be our leader, He should go through the way of obedience which we failed but ought to go. This qualifies Him to be the pioneer and our salvation will is confirmed through our obedience. Our obedience is obedience to Jesus, our Lord. God entrusted the authority of judgment to Christ.

Perseverance in hope: Anchor of our soul, Jesus (5:11-6:20)

- What is difference between infant and mature man in faith? (13-14)
- Even after tasting of God's grace (4-5), we might fall back. We shouldn't give up growing up to maturity. Apostasy starts from our contempt on His crucifixion, saying useless or meaningless (6) so that we might regard that following Jesus is not worth.
- Vv.11-12 The author encourages us to "demonstrate" the "same eagerness" for the "fulfillment of your hope" until "the end." How strong is your hope for Jesus?
- () is required to inherit the promises (6:12)

6:13-20 tell importance of perseverance using example of Abraham.

- V18 describes Christians as those who are fleeing for refuge from destruction y their sins.
- What makes you persevere? (18-19)
- Abraham held fast to God's faithfulness.
- The hope is the anchor of the soul (v19). The hope reaches inside the curtain. The hope is Jesus Christ Himself. V20 clarifies it. Another word for the hope is "high priest."

Share and Pray.

ANCHOR OF MY SOUL

Once for All: High Priest of the Better Covenant (Ch 7-9, 10:1-18)

How good is the better covenant? Are you enjoying it?

Not all Christians who claim to know about the gospel know it truly. They understand the gospel simply in the extension of OT Mosaic Law. They are not experiencing grace and triumph over sins, instead being under slavery of guilt and sin.

Who is Mechizedek (7:1-10)

- See Gen 14
- vv. 4-10 Mechizedek is superior to Abraham and Levitical priests.

High priest in the order of Melchizedek (7:11-28)

- What does it mean? What is Levitical priest?
- God replaced Levitical priest and old law with Jesus and new law. Why? (11)
- V15-16: It is even clear that God setup a new law when He arose a priest in the likeness of Mechizedek, not according to the flesh, but by the life of resurrection.
- Old law mainly concerns outward behaviors, new law matters inner beings. (v16)
- V18-19: New command and law are given: the former one is weak and useless and not able to make anything perfect. New law gives us better hope that we could approach to God.
- V20-22: This new system is affirmed by an oath, while old one isn't. God have sworn when He setup Christ as a high priest (v21). God is obligated to listen to Jesus' petition for us.
- V23-25: Not like human priests, He lives forever, He can save those completely from sin and death, who come to God through Him.
- Sacrifice "once for all" means His sacrifice forgives all sins of past, present, and future. No need to be offered again. Also, see 9:27. This doesn't mean we don't need to repent.
- V28:summary: Jesus is the perfect high priest forever, appointed by God.

- Why did God setup a new priesthood?
- What is the ultimate goal of the law?
- Where can you find certainty of God's promise? How can you sure about it?
- What makes Jesus the better high priest than Levitical high priest?

High Priest of Better covenant (Ch 8)

The main point is that we have such a high priest: one who sat down at the right hand of God.

Heavenly sanctuary (8:1-6)

Better covenant (8:7-13)

- V7: first one is faulty. It failed to make the Israelites love God.
- V10: This is the new covenant. God will put His law in their minds. This means pouring of Holy Spirit and personal relationship with God not by written code. In Mosaic Law, the law was written in the stone tablet.
- V12: forgiveness of sins is given to them freely.
- Does new covenant make people love God with all heart? Really?
- Does God forgive our sins without our confession of sins?
- What does it mean that God wrote His law in our heart? Then, don't we need Bible?
- Why is this new covenant better?

Ritual of earthly sanctuary (9:1-10)

- V7-8: Only high priest entered the most holy place once a year with blood. While the tabernacle was standing, the way into the most holy place was not freely open.
- V9-10: this is an illustration that gifts and offerings cannot cleanse the conscience of the worshippers. Why? It is because the ritual matters external things not inside sins. It stood until new order came.

Christ's Service in Heavenly Sanctuary (9:11-28)

- V11-14 His service is: see how perfect it is!
 - Heavenly sanctuary: perfect, not of this creation
 - Once for all
 - By His blood
 - Purification of our conscience from dead works
 - Enable us to worship living God
- V15 He is the mediator of a new covenant. Who will receive eternal inheritance?
- A mediator is a neutral and trusted person in the middle and provides a guarantee of fulfillment of contracted obligation. For two things Jesus mediates.
 - He paid the ransom for sinners, all penalties for violations of the first covenant.
 - He made them live according to God's will. First covenant is destroyed, but not the principle of the law; to love God. He poured us with Holy Spirit so that we obey God.
- V27-28: We will die once and face the judgment, at this moment Christ will appear a second time to save us from judgment. Our salvation will be complete at that time.
- What are two works done by Jesus as a mediator between God and man?
- Can you explain meaning of "once for all"? How could one sacrifice of Jesus cleanse your past and future sins?
- To whom will Christ appear? (28)

Concluding Exposition: Old and New sacrifice (10:1-18)

V1-4: Limitation of old system.

- V1: the law is a shadow of good things to come. Shadow is not reality therefore no power. Not able to cleanse worshipers from their sins. Pay attention here, a goal of the gospel is to make us without sin.
- V3-4: repetition of OT sacrifices cannot take away sins, rather reminded of their sins. These are typical symptoms for those who don't have clear understanding of the gospel: Keep sinning and excessive guilt.

V5-18: Once for all sacrifice: body of Christ

- V8-10: Jesus came to do God's will, to do away sins. It is God's will that we are cleansed by Christ's blood. Once for all, not through repetition of sacrifices.
- V11: Many priests offered sacrifices again and again, which never take away sins.
- V12-13: Christ offered one sacrifice once for all and is waiting death being completely defeated while seating on the God's right hand. What is complete defeat of death, Satan? Our victory over sin while we live and resurrection after death.
- V17-18: Forgiveness of sins forever. That is why there is no more offering.
- What is the problem of OT ritual system? Why do we experience the same problem: repetition of sin and repentance, while we live according to the new covenant?
- Are you encouraged to win over temptation of sin? Can you win? How?

Share and Pray

- How better is the new covenant?
- How great and powerful is Jesus' work?
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ANCHOR OF MY SOUL

Call to Faith and Endurance (10:19-31, Ch 11-13)

Questions: What is faith? Why endurance?

Encouragement for Endurance (10:19-39)

- V19: Have a confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus. No matter we do and we are, just come to the throne of mercy by Jesus' blood.
- V20: this is a new and living way. It is "new" for being different from the old way, in which we approached to God with what we prepared. It is "living" for the way is Jesus Himself. Also, He inaugurated this way through his blood.
- We have a reason to be bold. We have a great priest.
- V22: draw near with sincerity and assurance. The reason we can assure is that our hart and our body are cleansed. What is heart's cleansing? What is body's cleansing?
- V23: How can we hope our salvation will be completed?

Warning

- Who are they described in v29?
- What's punishment of God for those people?

Endurance

- V32-34 Remember your endurance during sufferings after your enlightenment
 - Public exposure to abuse and afflictions, in prison
 - Share with others who were persecuted
 - Sharing with those in prison (material support)
 - Accepting confiscation with JOY, why? We had a better and lasting possession.
- V35-39 Don't throw away your confidence. Stand firm in confidence gets GREAT reward. What is the reward?
- What kind of confidence makes you endure? (v. 36, v. 37)
- Faith is to yearn for () (v38)
- What is the reason that people shrink back? (v. 39)

People commended for their faith (11:1-40)

Faith talks (11:1-7)

- V1: faith is substance (ὑπόστασις) of what we hope for and proof (ἔλεγχος) of things which are not visible.
- V2: By faith, many people got commendation of God. Verses from v3 to v31 start with "by Faith"
- V4: Because of his faith, this offering was commended by God. Through faith, Abel still speaks though he is dead. Only faith God acknowledges, only faith lasts forever.

- V5: by Faith Enoch didn't see death. By faith he pleased God. God's commendation is to reveal His approval of faith.
- V6: Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Two basic things to believe: His existence and Reward for those who seek Him. Previous examples support this truth.

- By what does God commend us?

Abraham's faith (V8-12)

- V8: by faith. Abraham left for a place he would later receive. Not knowing and invisible direction, but He went by faith. This is not just going without God's guidance, but clear guidance only through the eye of faith.
- V11: by Faith Sarah got ability to bear a child even she was barren and too old. What is Sarah's faith about?

What Faith is (V13-16)

- Essence of faith is this: we might not see the promise fulfilled before we die, however we see it in the distance and welcomed them. And we acknowledge being foreigners in this earth. (v14)
- V15: We have a chance to return the land we have left. At that moment, we are required of endurance. In our life, this test is given time to time.
- Why don't we return to the land we left, old value system? (v16)
- That's why God is not ashamed to be called our God. If we don't aspire to the heaven, if we don't yearn for His coming, it's a shame for God to be called our God, like a rejected propose.

Faith being tested (V17-22)

- V18: promise and command are conflicting sometimes. We don't understand how both stand.
- V19: Abraham reasoned God could raise him from dead. Did he really have thought about it?
- 20-22: By faith, patriarchs not seeing the promise fulfilled blessed their sons. They believed God will give the land to their descendants though they hadn't seen it while their living.

Other examples (V23-40)

- What is Moses' faith? (24-26, 27)
- V29: Faith is not own belief. Unless it is granted by God, it is vain.
- Many men of faith (v32). Some got victory by faith (v33-35), some suffered in faith (v35-38). Look! list of suffering is longer.
- V39: on this earth, there is commendation for faith, though we might not receive the promise.
- V40: The promise will not be fulfilled until all His children are called. This means all our forerunners in faith are watching for us to finish this race that is their race too.
- What is faith? (please answer in your words)

Endurance until the kingdom fully comes (12:1-29)

The Lord's discipline (12:1-13)

Race of Faith (1-3)

- V1: We have such a great cloud of witnesses. We are athletes who are running a race.
- Remove all weights and sins.
- Run with endurance the race set out for us.
- Keep eyes fixed on Jesus: () who showed the way of life, (): He makes us to finish the race

Jesus' example: Need to follow His path

- Joy is the motivation that Jesus could endure the cross,
- Disregarding the shame and look for the reward.

Essentiality of Discipline (V4-11)

- What is the goal of discipline? (v4, 5)
- How intense is it? (v4)
- The Lord disciplines, endurance is required. (v5) Disciplining is sign that the Lord chose you and loves you. (v6)
- V7: No disciplining = not a son. See 3 times this point is stated. V9-10: Father disciplines son. Heavenly Father disciplines sons with better purpose.
- What is His purpose? To share His holiness. Therefore we ask God to strengthen our faith rather than to remove problems.
- V11: Two facts about discipline: it seems painful (appearance), it produces fruit and peace and righteousness.
- V12-13: Be healed all your malfunctioning parts through discipline.

- What are benefits of discipline?

Do not reject God's warning (12:14-29)

- V15: Seek grace of God. What happened if he lacks in the grace? Bitter root (complaints, accusing), causing troubles, and many will be defiled.
- V16: ungodly persons: they despise heavenly blessing like Esau did. Did Esau wrong? (Gen 25) No. He just got what he wanted. V17: Esau wanted later but too late (gen 27).

- What warnings are here?

Final exhortations and remarks (13:1-25)

- What exhortations are here? Please list five of them

- What do you observe from the author's short benediction? (13:20-21)

Share and Pray

Answer Keys

- Seeking God's glory and His will
- Often there are conflicts in our understanding of God's will, just trust Him.
- She believed that God is faithful who made the promise.
- We aspire to a better land.
- Repentance of our sins time to time.
- For He promised so and is trustworthy.