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# Words of Truth

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## Hebrews 6:19-20

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We have studied and considered things pertaining to the integrity of our Heavenly Father (Hebrews 6:13-18). He doesn't lie. His word is sure. You can trust in His word in troubling times (Nahum 1:7). Those facts lead us into our study in this article. The text we are going to study is the following: *"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec"* (Hebrews 6:19-20).

The word of God teaches us that we are saved by hope. Notice: *"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it"* (Romans 8:24-25). After the miraculous age, the faithful were/are left with faith, hope, and love (I Corinthians 12:3-13:13). We have hope through the word of God (Psalms 119:49, Psalms 119:81, Psalms 130:5, Romans 15:4, and Colossians 1:23). Our hope is laid up for us in Heaven (Colossians 1:5). Therefore, death is not the same for us as it is for those whom have no hope (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). We can have hope through what the Lord says because we can trust Him (Titus 1:1-3). We can look forward to what is in store in the life to come (John 14:1-3), because we can trust the words of our Lord.

Hope is a motivator. Hope motivates a person to work for a reward (I Corinthians 9:9-10). Hope motivates us to live faithfully. Consider these inspired words: *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure"* (I John 3:1-3). Hope is fuel to our ability to rejoice (Romans 12:12). There is even much more to consider about hope, but with what we have let's consider how hope is an anchor of the soul.

An anchor is a heavy object attached to a rope or chain that is used to make fast a vessel to the bottom of a body of water, river, etc. As waves and currents come about, that anchor holds the boat in place. Hope accomplishes for the faithful of God the same thing that an anchor does for a boat. Hope holds the faithful in place. You can see this when you look at faithful saints who had to go through difficult times. Paul wrote of them (himself along with his

companions in teaching the Gospel) being “troubled on every side.” Yet, they were not distressed. Their looking forward to things eternal helped them keep the course (II Corinthians 4:8-5:1).

Hope, that is rooted in the truthfulness of God, is sure and stedfast. When hope is properly placed in God, you can become unmovable (Psalms 62:5-6). The first letter to Corinth we have a record of contains a whole chapter about the resurrection (I Corinthians 15:1-58). At the end of that chapter, we read this instruction: *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (I Corinthians 15:58). Hope enables us to fulfill that instruction. The very letter we are studying teaches that to be partakers of Christ one has to hold stedfast unto the end (Hebrews 3:14). We can trust God to uphold His part of His promises. Can He trust us to remain stedfast in hope? You answer that for yourself.

Next we read about our forerunner, Christ Jesus our Lord. The figure of the veil here is not the same as the figure of the veil mentioned later in this letter that concludes with that veil being His flesh (Hebrews 9:1-10:20). A forerunner is a scout, someone that runs ahead of the others. What Jesus did by sacrificing Himself is not something we follow Him in. He was that once for all sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10). So, what was He first in that we should follow? He was the firstborn of the dead (Colossians 1:12-18) to ascend to our Father in Heaven (Ephesians 1:17-20). Again, our lively hope is in the resurrection unto eternal life with our Father in Heaven (I Peter 1:3-13). Our High Priest has entered into that most holy place so that, even now, we can come boldly unto the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:14-16). We cannot separate hope from Jesus. For us Gentiles, without Christ we would have no hope in this world (Ephesians 2:1-17). “Christ in you” is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Paul told Timothy very plainly that Jesus Christ is our hope (I Timothy 1:1). That hope is in His return and what is to come thereafter (Philippians 3:20-21 and Titus 2:11-14).

Again, the text of this letter comes back to our High Priest Jesus Christ being after the order of Melchisedec. Before this letter changed course, we had already begun to read about the order of Melchisedec as it relates to the priesthood of our Lord (Hebrews 5:6-10). Going forward, we will be considering much more about the priesthood of Jesus.

As we end this chapter and look forward, remember that Jewish Christians in the first century struggled to understand the changes from the Law of Moses into the Law of Christ. Even though God did much work to prepare, even sending the forerunner John to preach (Matthew 3:1-12); many Jewish Christians fell away (i.e. Galatians 1:6-9; 5:4). Divisions took place and had to be dealt with because of certain people that had loyalty to the Law of Moses rather than to Christ (Acts 15:1-40). So, going forward, remember that what may be simple for us to see now was not so simple for some to see then. Hopefully you can appreciate the great lengths God went to so that they could learn that which is easy for us to see.