

Is your anchor in heaven?

► = next PowerPoint slide

► Intro:

- Eph. 4:14 Paul uses a nautical metaphor to show the agitation in our lives if we aren't steadfast in faith and doctrine

- this sermon: talk about another nautical metaphor that shows the opposite

- the anchor: it shows the stability and peace we have as Christians, faithful to God

- note: for most part, speaking figuratively the whole lesson

► Our soul is anchored in heaven

- Heb. 6:19 our anchor is in heaven, behind the veil of the heavenly tabernacle

- anchor: object dropped from a boat to the bottom of a body of water to keep the vessel in place

- figurative sense: something that gives stability and security

- nautical metaphor:

- life is like being at sea in a boat

- we need to anchor our boat (life) so we can have peace and tranquility, and steadfastly endure the storms

- rather than anchoring our boat (life) to this world, it is anchor in heaven, where there is true stability and security

Problem / Solution: How is our anchor set in heaven? – we can't do it, Jesus does it for us

- - **pic: anchoring technique:**
 - put your boat over the place you want to set your anchor
 - lower the anchor to the sea bottom
- - **pic: back the boat up slowly till four - ten times** as much rode is let out, for best holding power
 - 100' of water, let our 1000' feet of rode
- - **pic: problem: you have to be over the area you want to set the anchor before lowering it from the boat**
 - have to be in heaven to set anchor in heaven
 - we want our anchor in heaven
 - but we can't get to heaven to lower our anchor
 - it's impossible for us to anchor our lives in heaven
- - **Heb. 6:19-20; Jn. 14:6 solution:** Jesus took our anchor to heaven and set it for us - way, truth, life, way to Father
 - **pic: figurative:** boat (life), Jesus takes anchor off bow, takes to heaven, set it for us, keeps it there securely
- - **anchor metaphor was very meaningful to early Christians who were being persecuted to the death**
 - **pic:** Christian epitaph, accompanied by anchor and fish symbols
 - **anchor was comforting metaphor to persecuted Christians** who gave their bodies to be killed, know they'd be with their anchor at death, and with the Lord who was holding it secure for them
 - **fish was comforting metaphor** because it reminded them that life was in the water – baptism
- - **We don't set our anchor in heaven, Jesus set it for us, and makes sure it stays secure!** (figuratively)
 - Jesus sets it
 - Jesus makes sure it doesn't give way and fail

► **How does Jesus set your anchor in heaven?**

- **Heb. 2:14-18** Jesus had to come to earth in the flesh, live as a human, tempted, trials, persecution
 - Jesus could not plant an anchor for a fleshly man without first becoming flesh

► - **Heb. 9:11-12** Jesus had to sacrifice Himself on the cross, and enter into the holy place with His blood to make propitiation for our sins

► - **Heb. 6:19-20a** how in heaven, as our forerunner, Jesus can set our anchors in the holy place, behind the veil

► - **Heb. 6:18-19a** our anchor is hope - hope for the soul does the same as an anchor for a ship

- illus.: Among the heathen writers, hope is often compared with an anchor. So Socrates said, "To ground hope on a false supposition, is like trusting to a weak anchor." (Barne's)

► - **Heb. 10:19-22** hope is our anchor because of Jesus, all He's done and continues to do

- vs. 19 we have confidence to enter the holy place, blood of Christ
- vs. 20 new and living way, inaugurated through the veil, via the flesh of Jesus
- vs. 21 have great high priest
- vs. 22 draw near, sincere heart, full assurance of faith, hearts sprinkled and clean, bodies washed with pure water

► - when we obey the gospel, we're washed in Jesus' blood, and have the hope (confident expectation based on God's word) of heaven – anchor

- this is the stabilizing force in our lives, confident that we'll be in heaven for eternity, no matter what happens
- **Rom. 5:3-5** hope does not disappoint, love of God poured out within our hearts
- **Rom. 5:6-11** the love of God that gives us hope – expound on points in text

► One day you'll be where your anchor is – heaven or hell

- pic: hauling in the anchor: simplistic
 - pull up the anchor, the boat moves to the place where the anchor is – hard, difficult, strenuous

► - **Heb. 6:18** “hope set before us” – hope is our anchor – i.e., anchor set before us

- nautical metaphor: take hold of hope (anchor), pull it in, you will be where hope is at
- athletic metaphor: “race that is set before us” – run the race, the finish line is in heaven, receive the reward (Heb. 12:1-2)

- a Christian's life is a journey of pulling in your anchor (fig. speaking)

- at the end of life, you're where you're anchor is - heaven

Inv.

- inv.: – song: We Have An Anchor

- as a faithful Christian, your anchor is in heaven, set there by Jesus
 - everyone else has an anchor set in hell
 - won't you let Jesus move your anchor for you today!