

August 16, 2019

Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

Anchored in Hope

The message of the gospel offers hope. It offers hope to the hospital patient who is fearful in the face of sickness. It offers hope to the drug dependent person, that somehow he may escape his chains. It offers hope to the person caught in a cycle of poverty, that it will not always be this way. It offers hope to churches in crisis. Some of our troubles are self-inflicted wounds, and others are pressed upon us. There is hope for the person without a job, that God has one out there for them. It offers hope for the lonely, that they may meet, marry, and be happy. It offers hope for that one who was brought up missing all the natural and normal "helps" that could have made the difference. Some grow up in a tornado of uncertainty, never knowing where parents are, nor where the next meal will come from. The gospel offers hope to all these and more.

We hope in God's *faithfulness*. He will never leave us. He (beyond all others) will always be trustworthy. He can be depended on to grace our hospital room. He is there when we cry ourselves to sleep. We hope that He has a solution to our endless and confusing problems. He is our light of hope when it feels as if darkness lies on us like a dark curtain. He is our hope when life has dried our souls. He has always been faithful. He will always be faithful.

We may trust in God's *truthfulness*. What He promises He will perform. He assures us that evil will be judged, and I believe it. When I get impatient, I will trust His word. He said He'd return, and each day we have hope that "this might be the day." We look up expectantly. We look over death into heaven victoriously. We endure our trials majestically. What He has promised we expect Him to perform. From time to time, we must face death. It may be our own, or it may be that of someone we love. We even look at death differently. We face it confident that what God told us is true. He assured us that those who believe in Him will never die (John 11:26). That is either true, or our Savior has lied. I choose to believe in the truthfulness of Jesus. That means my loved ones are not dead; they are with Jesus. That means that this life is not all there is. It speaks to another world. It speaks to a reality beyond our earthly vision and perception. I believe Jesus.

Picture two boats. One is adrift in an ocean whipped by the winds of change, wickedness, and turmoil. It will quickly crash on the rocks of the shore. It is in constant danger of capsizing. Its occupants are helplessly and hopelessly at the mercy of the powerful sea. What about the other boat? It is securely anchored to the ocean floor. It is not secure because of something within the boat. It is secure because it is tied to that which will not move in the storm. It is tied outside the boat. This is the image that Paul used with believers at Hebrews 6:19. He taught that we have an anchor for our soul. Inside where we really live and feel and experience life (our souls) it is possible to be securely anchored. So I admonish you - anchor your soul in Jesus!

Anchored,
Jerry Rea