



The Anchor of Your Soul Part 2

The Significance of Anchors

For centuries, anchors have been a symbol of hope. This emblem was especially significant to the early persecuted church. Christians used the etchings of anchors to identify where Christians held their church services in hiding. Anchors were used as a “disguised cross” to guide their way to the services. **Proverbs 1:33**

- Anchors are typically connected to a boat or ship by a long chain or heavy line for the purpose of holding the vessel in place. Hope holds us as Christians in place. Hope keeps us connected to the **WORD of God!**
- Anchor, the English word, is a translation of a Greek word derived from “ankos”, which means curve. The curved shape allows the anchor to grip or hook on to a solid base to keep the ship stable and in place.
- Anchors are a symbol of the sea and represents hope and steadfastness. **1 Corinth 15:58**
- Anchors are often Christian symbols representing Christ, who provides security for believers, holding them secure no matter the severity of the storm. **Psalms 23:4**

In Paul’s terrifying time at sea, the crew used not just one, but four anchors in an attempt to save the ship and their lives. **Acts 27:29**

Cultural Hope verses Christian Hope

Cultural hope is riddled through and through with the vacillating problems of our changing values. Whereas Christian hope is woven through and through with the promises of our unchanging God. **Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19**

Cultural Hope is Changeable

- **Hope in society's values**

PROMBLEM: Your sense of right and wrong can slowly change over time: *Social standards change as cultures change.*

- **Hope in legal justice**

PROMBLEM: Your sense of justice will not always be upheld. In legal courts, the justice system is not always just.

- **Hope in people's promise**

PROMBLEM: Your faith can be fractured when people break their promises. People you look up to can let you down.

- **Hope in an organization's integrity and rightness**

PROMBLEM: Your faith in any organization (even a church or ministry) can be destroyed as a result of unrighteous behavior - not doing what is right in God's sight - a lack of integrity.

- **Hope in your education for wisdom and understanding**

PROMBLEM: Your education and the educational system do not guarantee wisdom and understanding. Wisdom is knowing how to apply your knowledge with godly insight.

- **Hope in your work to provide purpose for your life**

PROMBLEM: Your work is not your purpose in life, nor is it your "identity," for your work could come to an end. Then, if you lost your work, you've just lost your purpose for living.

Christian Hope is Unchangeable

- **Hope in God's unchanging values**

PROMISE: "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal. . . Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble" (**Psalm 119:160, 165**).

- **Hope in God's unchanging justice**

PROMISE: "He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he" (**Deuteronomy 32:4**).

- **Hope in God's unchanging promises**

PROMISE: "If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (**2 Timothy 2:13**)

- **Hope in God's unchanging integrity and righteousness**

PROMISE: "Your love, O Lord reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep O Lord, you preserve both man and beast." (**Psalm 36:5-6**)

- **Hope in God's unchanging wisdom and understanding**

PROMISE: "He made the earth by his power, he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding." (**Jeremiah 51:15**)

- **Hope in God's unchanging purpose for your life**

PROMISE: "I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me. . . For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies." (**Psalms 37:2, 10**)