

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

AN ANCHOR FOR YOUR SOUL

Hebrews 6:19-20 “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus. . . .”

An anchor is a device usually of metal attached to a ship or boat by a cable and cast overboard to hold it in a particular place. An anchor can also be a reliable or principal support. Therefore, a person can be an anchor, as can a business or a great variety of other possibilities. The point is anchors provide security.

Every person needs a personal anchor. They need something or someone who provides them with emotional, spiritual, and physical security. What this is varies from person to person. The writer to the Hebrews says in chapter 6, verse 19, for the Christian their anchor is the eternal hope, certainty, and the assurance God gives through faith in Jesus Christ. This hope is the anchor for a Christian’s soul.

You were given this anchor at your baptism. You are assured of this anchor through the power of the Gospel. The faith God has given you in His Son Jesus provides your soul with the sure certainty of eternal life in heaven. Thus the hymn writer Bernard of Cluny penned these words to end his hymn of confidence in his eternal home in heaven, “In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.” (LSB 672, v. 4)

As an anchor holds a ship in place during good weather and bad, rough seas or smooth, so your faith holds you to Jesus who is your spiritual anchor, your spiritual foundation, the bed-rock upon which your life now and for all eternity is built. Jesus is your anchor through good times and difficult ones. He is always with you to secure your soul. (Matthew 28:20) This is exactly what Edward Mote knew and believed when he penned these words of refrain to his hymn, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” You know the words of the refrain well, “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.” (LSB 575)

Prayer: Jesus, name of wondrous love, keep me safe and secure from my sinful flesh, the sinful world in which I live and the temptations of Satan, even to life everlasting. Amen.

Jesus, Savior, pilot me Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll, Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child, Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will When Thou say'st to the, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sovreign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest, Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."
(LSB 715)