

# FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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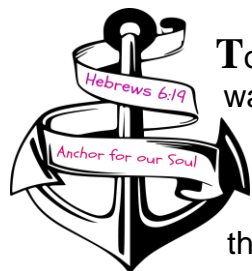
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"From the Pastor's Desk..."

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## THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL



Too often mankind find themselves tossed and driven by the winds and waves of life, driven off course from their original plans and goals which they had previously set for their life. They find themselves in jeopardy seeking some relief not only from the storm, but from the despair which has flooded their souls because of the predicament in which they have found themselves.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews wrote, "***We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.***" Heb. 6:19,20

***Many people these days have lost their hope.*** Hope accomplishes for the soul the same thing an anchor does for a ship. It makes it firm and secure. Socrates said, "*To ground hope on a false supposition, is like trusting to a weak anchor.*" An anchor preserves a ship when the waves beat and the winds blow. As long as the anchor holds, the ship is considered safe, and the mariner is confident of no danger. So it is with the soul of a child of God. In the tempests and trials of life, his mind is calm as long as his hope of heaven is firm. If that gives way, he feels that all is lost.

Wall Street Journal recently on one of the editorial pages, in the bookshelf section offered a review of a new book. "*Secular Faith,*" written by Mark A Smith, a professor of political science at the University of Washington. The premise of his book is basically built around the idea as to how culture has triumphed over religion. He argues against the view that religion is a major influence on our politics. What has convinced this author of this view is when some who identify themselves with Christians have accepted many of the modern ideas either by changing their longstanding positions or refraining from political action.

Mr. Smith further admits that Christians of earlier centuries would be shocked and appalled if they knew about some of the beliefs and practices of (what he called) Christians today. Apparently, the author is unaware that there are and has always been those who at first identified themselves with the Church (Christians), but apostatize by renouncing the true doctrines of the religious faith and by replacing them with a false set of beliefs of their own, while at the same time making claims to be a follower of Christ.

***This was the indictment that Christ placed on some of the Churches of Asia in the Book of Revelation.*** They didn't leave their churches, they merely attempted to seduce and corrupt them with their demonic doctrines of devils. In Heb. 6, there is a warning given of such a possibility happening within the local assembly. In fact the scripture says, "*It is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost....if they shall fall away to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.*" (Heb. 6:4-6).

***If we feel our nation is in disarray could it be due to the fact that people have lost their anchor?*** When our leaders advocate we cut our ties with the Christian beliefs and practices of the past it should tell us that our nation is losing its anchor. It might be good for Mr. Smith to temper his claim after admitting that abortion has remained divided instead of trending toward a social consensus. Because we can rest assured that opposition to abortion is grounded almost entirely upon one thing and that is there are some people who still maintain a religious conviction. The influence of the Church is not dead yet! PTL.

## WE HAVE AN ANCHOR

**As Christians, we have an anchor. We have kept that anchor tied to our homes, decisions and beliefs as well as our practices.** I know that the world is changing all around us even in our own Christians circles. We are seeing people accept these things in the name of political correctness as something that is here to stay. People are at the point of being fearful to voice their opposition because of the fear of personal rejection.

While it is true that broad cultural trends have influenced some people's religious views such as: the redefinition of marriage, homosexuality, how our children are being raised and even the role of women, it has not yet been proven as to how that has improved our society or help us in any way. I know one thing for sure these issues have done more to divide our nation than unite it. More family relationships have been broken by these "*broad cultural trends*" than made...and that is not good I don't care how one may frame the argument.

**But I learned a long time ago to trust the principles of God's Word.** To hold fast to these truths regardless of the popular trends. But there is something I have also observed: what is popular today, most generally fades in time. Remember the "*Hoola hoop*"? I haven't seen one of them for years. What happened to them? People lost interest. You can use a '*Hoola Hoop*' only so long. Well, a lot of the ideas that are being promoted today, will wear out as well. But there is one thing which will not wear out....and that is the Word of God! It abideth forever.

**One thing we must be concerned about is whether we are holding to the truths that once were delivered to the saints.** Professor Smith, the author that wrote the book I mentioned earlier said, "*Divorce was once a politically contentious issue, and the biblical criticisms against it weighed heavily in the arguments. Yet divorce became more commonplace and the law more accommodating, religious leaders and local clergymen devoted less attention to the issue.*" Mr. Smith calls divorce part of the "*missing culture war,*" something which religious spokesmen could focus their attention on, but bowing to social and culture trends generally choose not to.

**I think a better word for what is happening is spiritual complacency.** We have become so accustomed to the way things are that we no longer hear many voices of opposition to the trend. I am sure that most of us still abhor the thoughts of divorce. But do we abhor it enough to do what we can to reverse the downward spiral of what is happening to so many marriages. I know there is a reluctance to get involved in domestic disputes, but when we see a marriage in trouble how much time do we spend in prayer to pray against what the devil is doing and do we at least reach out to do something to let them know we care about what is happening in their life?

*The Church has resources available to reverse the trends of this age if only we would use them.* It should start in the pulpit and the classroom of our churches. Secondly, there should be support for marriage by encouragement of the laity to fellowship with one another in order that we may bear one another burdens. There is always the avenue of prayer that always is a powerful weapon against any device of the devil to destroy marriages.

*Then those who are married have a responsibility to love each other as Christ has loved the church.* This sometimes calls for sacrifice; doing good deeds in times when even our energy is lacking. We should also treat the marriage like a business; it needs our daily attention if it is to succeed. We must never take our spouse for granted that they will always be there. Keep dating, affirming, and helping one another often. Be faithful to the house of God; it will add strength to the marriage.

**You see, we do have an anchor...it is Christ.** He is the One who holds all things together. He is the One who becomes the glue in keeping things intact, when the storms of life are beating against us. Our faith in Him provides us with the hope that all is well regardless of what the news maybe telling us. This is why the writer of Hebrews, when he wrote this sixth chapter, added these words of exhortation: "*But beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak....that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*" (Heb. 6:9,12) Amen.