

Anchors that Hold

Introduction:

1. It has been observed that “the captain who would go out to sea without an anchor is a madman.”
2. Anchors to a ship are exceedingly important. Anchors keep the ship from being carried away by wind and tide; they are of great value in preventing the ship from drifting.
3. Each one of us is traveling upon the sea of life. Life is not always “smooth sailing.” Sometimes the winds, the waves, and the storms of life seem to overwhelm us; we feel so weak, so frail, so helpless.
4. Each one of us, like a ship upon the sea, need to have some anchors that hold.
5. Title of lesson: **Anchors that Hold.**
6. Text: Acts 27:29.
7. Background information:
 - a. Paul and company arrive in Jerusalem at conclusion of third “missionary journey,” Acts 21:17.
 - b. Trouble soon erupted, Acts 21:27-32.
 - c. Paul’s defense before the people in Jerusalem, Act 22:1-22.
 - d. Paul’s defense before the Council, Acts 23:1-13.
 - e. Paul’s defense before Felix, Acts 24:1-27.
 - f. Paul’s defense before Festus, Acts 25.
 - (1) Certain Jews from Jerusalem laid many grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove, v.7.
 - (2) Festus, inspired by political motivation, inquired if Paul would go to Jerusalem, v. 9.
 - (3) Paul said “*I appeal unto Caesar,*” v. 11. His was “the voice of justice, the voice of courage, and the voice of self-preservation.”
8. They departed for Rome, Acts 27. Paul went as a prisoner.
9. The voyage to Rome – very eventful and dangerous.
 - a. The first part of the voyage, in a ship of Adramyrium, Acts 27:2.
 - b. Then in a ship, laden with wheat, from Alexandria, Acts 27:6.
10. Our text.
 - a. Paul’s speech to the men on board, vs. 21-26.
 - (1) You should have listened to me.
 - (2) However, there will be no loss of life.
 - b. In desperation, the sailors let down four anchors and wished for daylight, v. 29.
11. By way of application, we sail upon the sea of life. Like the passengers on this ship, we are often tossed about by many storms.
 - a. We, too, must let down some anchors.
 - b. We shall mention four anchors that will hold.

Discussion: Anchors that Hold.

I. Faith in God.

- A. The Atheist, in the crises of life, has no Greater Power to Whom he can turn.
 1. He cannot say as did David in 2 Samuel 22:7.
 2. He wonders about the future, but he cannot say as did Daniel, Daniel 2:28.
 3. He faces many trials, but he cannot not pray, Matt. 6:13.
 4. Difficulties come his way, but he cannot say as did Paul in Romans 8:28.
- B. Some Atheists, however, in times of crisis instinctively try to turn to the very God Whose existence they denied!
 1. Voltaire: “O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul, from hell if there be a hell.”
 2. Ingersoll: “O what shall become of my poor soul?”
 3. Robert Blackford in Great Britain edited **the Clarion**, the sole purpose of which was to overthrow all religions. But his wife died. Note these words from his autobiography: “When I got up in the morning of her death I found to my surprise that I did not believe that she was dead. My materialism notwithstanding I felt that my wife was alive. My daughter, who held the same materialistic views as I did, felt the same. We could not believe that she was not.”
- C. Apart from God, life has no peace, joy, purpose, reason.

1. A Yale student committed suicide. A reporter asked his father why. Answer: "He saw no reason **in** life, so none **for** it."

D. Of course, there are many reasons for belief in God.

1. Atheism, the only other alternative, cannot be proven.

2. Reasonable to believe that the eternal Cause that caused everything is God – not matter.

3. The universe exhibits marks of intelligent causation.

a. Heb. 3:6; Psalm 19:1.

b. An atheist said to Christian: "Show me your God. Let me see, hear, feel, smell, or taste Him, and I will believe." Reply: "Show me your brain..."

4. The moral government of the world implies the existence of a moral Governor.

a. All guilty men fear the day of retribution.

b. Martyrs for truth have always committed their case to a higher Court.

5. The great evidence, Psa. 14:1.

II. Belief in Jesus Christ.

A. Properly understood, Belief in God necessitates faith in Christ.

1. John 14:1.

B. God had so much to say about the Christ.

1. Gen. 3:15; 12:3; Isa. 7:4; 9:6; Matt. 3:17.

C. God testified in other ways.

1. The works He performed, John 5:36; 9:4; 3:2.

D. The extent of our consecration and assurance depends upon what we believe about Christ – Virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, sacrificial death, victorious resurrection, heavenly ascension, glorious return, etc.

1. Heb. 4:16; 7:25; I John 2:1; I John 5:4-5.

III. Belief in the Bible.

A. The Bible has long been an anchor in the lives of millions.

1. When trouble comes, when death appears, etc., to what book do people turn.

2. It offers:

a. A standard for living, Matt. 5:1-12.

b. Comfort to the troubled, John 14:1.

c. Directions for forgiveness, Acts 2:37-38.

d. A cure for worry, Matt. 6:19-34.

e. Practical advice for living in the everyday world. 2 Thess. 3:10; Mt. 7:12; Rom. 12:17; Eph. 4:32

B. But the Bible is not simply a nice code of ethics; It came from God!

1. 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Eph. 3:5.

2. It is a book which time cannot destroy, I Peter 1:24-25.

IV. Faith in Prayer.

A. There is power in prayer because:

1. There is a God who hears, I Pet. 3:12.

2. There is a God Who is able to respond, Eph. 3:20.

3. There is a God Who answers, Jas. 5:16.

4. There is a Christ Who intercedes, Heb. 4:16; 7:25.

B. Prayer serves as a Great Anchor to the Soul.

1. Luke 22:42-43; Phil. 4:6-7.

C. However, there are **conditions** to acceptable prayer.

1. Heb. 10:19; I John 3:22; I John 5:14, etc.

Conclusion:

1. These four anchors will hold against all the storms of life, and will hold securely in death.

2. Have you anchored your soul in the haven of rest?

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