

ATTENTION!!

**Speaker next Sunday, July 10
Jacob Machengete**

A Living Hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

1 Peter 1:3-4

“Let’s hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23

“Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.” Isaiah 40:31

Indio Informer

Vol. 33 No. 27

July 3, 2022

Hope is Our Anchor

By Dan Jenkins

Our world is so complex and is so rapidly changing. Televisions, phones, computers, and other electronic devices become outdated so rapidly. We seemingly move from house to house and job to job far more frequently than before. Relationships and our roles in our family are so different as we rush through life. Is there nothing stable on which we can build our lives?

The answer is found in the closing verses of Hebrews chapter six. *“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil.”* God has given us hope and that hope is the anchor of our souls.

Hope is based on His immutable promise. The Bible clearly shows that we are saved by hope (Romans 8:24) and this hope is the anchor of our souls. The writer of Hebrews ties hopes to the promises of God. God’s promises to Abraham enabled the patriarch to see what others could not see. God spoke the promise to Abraham and His word was enough. Yet God wanted Abraham to know how much he could trust Him. So, God confirmed this with an oath (Hebrews 6:13-16). The writer then says this same hope, our hope, is our anchor.

Hope is based on the promises which are secure. Hebrews say that the hope we have is sure and steadfast (Heb. 6:19). What could be more sure? The omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, eternal and Almighty One have given us His promise and He cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Life is filled with uncertainty but the hope we have is far beyond all certainty. It is the basis of all of life’s decision. It is truly the anchor of the soul!

Hope is based on the promises which are steadfast. His promise and our hope are both sure and steadfast (Hebrews 6:19). There is no variance in the trustworthiness of our anchor. The life’s

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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philosophy of some is forced to change throughout their lives from day to day, but the faith we have is constant and unchanging. As our faith grows stronger, the anchor becomes more secure. It is always there. It is always secure. It is the anchor for our soul.

Hope is based on the life of Jesus and reaches from earth to heaven. Look again at Hebrews six. Jesus our forerunner has carried the anchor and has taken it into the very presence of God. No wonder it is an anchor sure and steadfast. The anchor line extends from our hearts, from our trials, and reaches into heaven. Hold on to that anchor. It will never move for it is anchored in eternity. God, hasten the day when we arrive at the place where we have anchored our lives! God, we thank You for the anchor You have given to us!

A Blessed Rest

Mike Johnson

Revelation 14:13 says, *“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”*

The word “blessed” means “happy.” There is an undeniable sense in which death brings sorrow. However, for those who “*die in the Lord*,” death, in a sense, can be regarded as a happy occasion. Heaven is a place of joy, rest, and peace, and we will experience this for eternity.

How do our “works” follow us? Consider two senses. First, if an individual lives a faithful Christian life, the positive impact of this person’s life continues after death. In Hebrews 11:4, we learn that Able, although dead, continues to speak. Also, Peter spoke of his approaching death in the first chapter of 2 Peter. After pointing out he would soon die, he said, *“Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.”* Our life on earth impacts others after we die, and our works do follow us. Another way to look at this passage is that the consequences of our deeds follow us into the next life, as judgment will be based on what we have done upon this earth. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, *“For we must all appear before the*

judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” Also, in Romans 2:6, we are told God will render to every man *“according to his deeds.”*

In conclusion, it is essential to consider that this blessed rest spoken of in Revelation 14:13 is only for those *“who die in the Lord.”* As the text indicates, it is for those who have “labored” for Him. Salvation only awaits those who “die in the Lord.” What is our situation? Are we “in the Lord?” Are we laboring for the Lord? If so, our death can be a joyous occasion!

What Will My Epitaph Say About Me?

By Al Behel

I love reading old headstones. That may sound morbid, but I have found that the epitaph written may reveal a lot about the person whose body lies beneath the ground. Some are very sad, and some are rather comical. I recall one in New England which advertised that the widow was mourning as one who could be comforted. One I read in Barren County, Kentucky reads, “Behold, my friends, in passing by, as you are now so once was I, as I am now one day you’ll be. So, prepare for death and follow me.” Someone had written below these words: “Before I follow you of my own consent, I’d like to know which way you went.”

Probably the most appropriate epitaph for any of us would be these simple words, “To Be Continued...” All of us will exit our physical bodies and they will return to dust, but inside our bodies is a living soul which will never die. That soul will live eternally somewhere. There are only two choices: heaven or hell. Our life will “be continued.”

We hope others will say good things about us when we are gone. But more important is what God will say. Will He say, “you fought a good fight, you finished the course, you kept the faith”? Will He say, “Well done! Good and faithful servant”? Or, will He say, “I never knew you”? The choice is ours.

We are writing our own epitaph each day we live. Decide now what we want ours to say about us.