



Sermon Notes

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Title: The Anchor of Our Soul

#8 in Series on the Book of Hebrews

Text: Heb. 6:10-20

1. Free will and the Right Choice

- a. True love requires freedom of choice; CS Lewis wrote, *"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken."*
- b. Pigeon religion; we must conform to God and not God to us.
- c. 2 Cor. 3:17, *"...and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."*

2. Confidence of better things

- a. God takes note and does not forget what we do.
 - i. Mt. 10:42, *"And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."*
 - ii. Mt. 25:40, *"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"*
 - iii. Jn. 13:20, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."*
 - iv. Acts 10:4, *"And when he [Cornelius] observed him, he was afraid, and said, 'What is it, lord?' So he said to him, 'Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.'"*
- b. Accompaniments of Salvation; manifesting active love for the household of faith. Gal. 5:6, *"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love."* 1 Thess. 1:2-4, *"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God."*
 - i. Work (v. 10); [G2040 ergon: ¹business, employment, that which any one is occupied (i.e. that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking); ²any product whatever, anything accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind; ³an act, deed, thing done: the idea of working is emphasized in opposition to that which is less than work]
 1. Titus 1:16, *"They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."*
 2. James 2:20, *"But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"*
 3. Jn. 10:37-38, *"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."*
 4. The 7 churches of Revelation were known for their works and judged accordingly...
 - a. (Ephesus) Rev 2:2, *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;"*
 - b. (Smyrna) Rev 2:9, *"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."*

- c. (Pergamos) Rev 2:13, *"I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells."*
- d. (Thyratira) Rev 2:19, *"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first."*
- e. (Sardis) Rev 3:1, *"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'"*
- f. (Philadelphia) Rev 3:8, *"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."*
- g. (Laodicea) Rev 3:15, *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot."*
- ii. Labor of love (v. 10); [G2873 *kopos*; ¹a beating; ²a beating of the breast with grief, sorrow; ³labour (trouble, to cause one trouble, make work for him, intense labor united with trouble and toil)]
 - 1. Jn. 13:35, *"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*
 - 2. 2 Cor. 2:4, *"For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you."*
 - 3. Jn. 3:17-18, *"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."*
 - 4. Jn. 15:12-14, *"This is my command, that ye love one another, according as I did love you; greater love than this hath no one, that anyone his life may lay down for his friends; ye are my friends, if ye may do whatever I command you;"*
- iii. Ministering to the Saints; this is one of the greatest signs of Christ's love at work and one of the most attractive elements of Christianity.
 - 1. Acts 2:44-47, *"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."*
 - 2. Rom. 12:13, *"...distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."*
 - 3. Philemon 1:4-7, *"I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother."*
- c. That each one would persevere until the end in hope with diligence; not being slothful.
 - i. Prov. 13:4, *"The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich."*
 - ii. Prov. 18:9, *"He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer."*
 - iii. 2 Pet. 1:5-10, *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be*

neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;"

- d. Imitate those who inherit the promises through faith and patience.
 - i. Song 1:8, "If you do not know, O fairest among women, follow in the footsteps of the flock, and feed your little goats beside the shepherds' tents."
 - ii. Jer. 6:16-17, "Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.'"
- 3. God's word, our soul's anchor; we are made to be ocean going vessels, not coastal ships
 - a. Example of God's promise to Abraham
 - b. Example of Abraham's endurance.
 - i. Kept the faith without seeing the fulfillment. Jn. 20:29, "**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**"
 - ii. Chased away the vultures. Sacrifices require attendance and protection.
 - 1. Gen. 15:11-12, "And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him."
 - 2. Parable of the sower
 - c. Two unchangeable deeds
 - i. God's oath, His word never changes.
 - ii. God's covenant, He keeps His promises
 - d. Let's change our perspective in regard to the deep waters and life's storms. No longer seek to be safe, but dangerous!
 - i. "A ship in the harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." [John Shedd]
 - ii. Ps. 107:23-32, "Some sailed over the ocean in ships, earning their living on the seas. They saw what the LORD can do, his wonderful acts on the seas. He commanded, and a mighty wind began to blow and stirred up the waves. The ships were lifted high in the air and plunged down into the depths. In such danger the sailors lost their courage; they stumbled and staggered like drunks – all their skill was useless. Then in their trouble they called to the LORD, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the raging storm, and the waves became quiet. They were glad because of the calm, and he brought them safe to the port they wanted. They must thank the LORD for his constant love, for the wonderful things he did for them. They must proclaim his greatness in the assembly of the people and praise him before the council of the leaders."
 - iii. In our world today we work so hard to shelter ourselves from hardship, danger and discomfort.
 - 1. "In a civilized country like where I come from," said Eustace, "the ships are so big that when you're inside you wouldn't even know you were at sea at all." "In that case you might as well say ashore," said Caspian." [C.S. Lewis, Voyage Of The Dawn Treader]
 - 2. "When the prosperous man on a dark but star-lit night drives comfortably in his carriage and has the lanterns lighted, aye, then he is safe, he fears no difficulty, he carries his light with him, and it is not dark close around him; but precisely because he has the lanterns lighted, and has a strong light close to him, precisely for this reason he cannot see the stars, for his lights obscure the stars, which the poor peasant driving without lights can see gloriously in the dark but starry night. So those deceived ones

live in the temporal existence: either, occupied with the necessities of life, they are too busy to avail themselves of the view, or in their prosperity and good days they have, as it were, lanterns lighted, and close about them everything is so satisfactory, so pleasant, so comfortable—but the view is lacking, the prospect, the view of the stars.” [Søren Kierkegaard]

- iv. *“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” [Mark Twain]*
- e. Our soul’s anchor
 - i. Drogue anchors, anchor stones littering sea floor show trade routes, Noah’s ark.
 - ii. His immutable word holds us steady in the storms. It keeps us pointing in the right direction. It is a presence in the storm that comforts our quaking hearts and sweaty palms.
 - iii. God doesn’t always make the storms go away, He can, but sometimes it’s the storms that teach us. (cf. Ps. 107)
- f. Kingdom business is not always done on the shore. God’s work is usually done by God, which requires us to work with Him by faith, and sometimes patience. But we go where Jesus, our forerunner, goes!

Into The Deep by Jeff Dunn

The safe waters are smooth, they do not swell or sway
The safe waters are close to shore where the violent waves are unknown
The safe waters offer calm and a false assurance that all is well
The safe waters are for those who should not have a boat in the first place

The deep waters are dangerous, far from the safety of the shore
The deep waters hide many things, many secret things that are never seen by those who abide in the shallows
The deep waters swell and shake, tossing those in the boat up and down
The deep waters can swallow man and boat whole, leaving no trace

I choose to sail into the deep waters
God is too big to live in the shallows
He stirs the deeps and raises the waves
He swirls the clouds that bring the storms
He increases the fury of the monsters of the deep who rise above the surface of the waters and strike fear into the hearts of sailors

God dwells in the deep waters
If I remain in the shallow, safe waters, I will never see the mighty hand of God
If I dwell in safety, I will never know how God will do the impossible
If I sail into the depths, I may die at sea, but God’s hand will carry me into the deep to dwell there forever with Him

I choose the impossible, the improbable, the absurd, the insane
I choose what does not make sense
I choose what is good and great
I choose the deep waters

4. Our response

- a. Sir Francis Drake's prayer: *"Disturb us, Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim. Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wilder seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push back the future in strength, courage, hope, and love. This we ask in the name of our Captain, who is Jesus Christ."*

"A drogue on the other hand, is anything dragged in the water behind the boat to slow it down, rather than to bring it to a halt. A drogue is useful when a boat is running before the wind and starts to get out of control. In combination with a scrap of sail up forward, or even under bare poles, a drogue over the stern will help prevent a boat from slewing broadside on to the swells and being laid over on her side, vulnerable to complete capsize on the next wave. The time to stream a drogue is when your boat starts to get out of control as you race along almost at the same speed as the overtaking waves and the helm goes slack while you wallow in foam-filled water. The drogue slows you down so that the wave will pass under your transom quickly, and restore control to the rudder once more. Some deep-sea sailors use car tires as drogues. Others use fancier drogues made for the purpose, including one with scores of small conical pockets on a long line that evens out the strain. But the principle is the same. The drogue just slows the boat down. It's also very useful when running an inlet with a shallow bar, to keep the boat lined up at right angles to the surf." [John Vigor]

"Many sailors are reluctant to deploy a drogue from the stern because they fear that the boat may suffer structural damage if the breaking wave strikes the flat transom, the cockpit and the companionway doors. The model tests do not show this to be a serious problem. The boat is accelerated up to wave speed and the velocity of the breaking crest is not high relative to the boat. The stern is actually more buoyant than the bow, and will rise with the wave. However, the boat may be swept from the stern. The cockpit may fill and moving water may strike the companionway doors. The structural strength of the transom, the cockpit floor and seat, and the companionway doors should be checked at a loading corresponding to a water jet velocity of approximately 15 ft./sec. When a boat is riding to a series drogue no action is required of the crew. The cockpit may not be habitable and the crew should remain in the cabin with the companionway closed. In a severe wave strike the linear and angular acceleration of the boat may be high. Safety straps designed for a load of at least 4g should be provided for crew restraint. All heavy objects in the cabin should be firmly secured for negative accelerations and drawers and lockers should be provided with latches or ties which will not open even with significant distortion of the hull structure." [US Coast Guard]