

ANCHOR of the SOUL

Text: Hebrews 6:17-20 ¹⁷ Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: ¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: ¹⁹ **Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast**, and **which entereth into that within the veil**; ²⁰ Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Introduction: Anchors– Merriam-Webster Definition: 1. a device usually of metal attached to a ship or boat by a cable and cast overboard to hold it in a particular place by means of a fluke that digs into the bottom. 2. a reliable or principal support : mainstay. 3. something that serves to hold an object firmly

- Anchors are not required on small vessels
- OSHA requires all pleasure boats larger than 29.5 ft. to have at least one anchor
- All ocean-going ships are required to have both a port and starboard anchor
- Standard Cargo Ship Anchor Size: 10-20 tons each
- Standard Cargo Ship Anchor Chain Length: 800-1300 ft.
- Each Anchor Chain Link on a Cargo Ship Weighs: about 125 lbs.

I. World Religions – Anchors of the Soul

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life (<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2012/12/18/global-religious-landscape-exec/>) **dated 12/18/2012-** Worldwide, more than eight-in-ten people identify with a religious group. A comprehensive demographic study of more than 230 countries and estimates that there are 5.8 billion religiously affiliated adults and children around the globe, representing 84% of the 2010 world population of 6.9 billion.

*The demographic study – based on analysis of more than 2,500 censuses, surveys and population registers – finds **2.2 billion Christians** (32% of the world's population), **1.6 billion Muslims** (23%), **1 billion Hindus** (15%), **nearly 500 million Buddhists** (7%) and **14 million Jews** (0.2%) around the world as of 2010. In addition, **more than 400 million people (6%) practice various folk or traditional religions**, including African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions. At the same time, the study by the Pew Forum also finds that roughly one-in-six people around the globe have **no religious affiliation. (1.1 billion) or (16%)***

At Death--- A true follower of each religion faces death with faith and expectancy—

- The **Islamic** faces death and eternity-- trusting in his faith to carry him (her) into Paradise
- The **Hindu** faces death and eternity-- trusting in his faith to carry him (her) into Paradise
- The **Buddhist** faces death and eternity -- trusting in his belief to carry him (her) into Paradise
- The **Jew** faces death and eternity -- trusting in his faith to carry him (her) into Paradise
- The **Folk/Traditional Believer** faces death and eternity-- trusting in his faith to carry him (her) into Paradise
- The **Christian** faces death and eternity-- trusting in his faith to carry him (her) into heaven
- What about the **Atheist**: they face death and eternity with faith that there isn't anything beyond death!

All of these are ANCHORS of the Soul

Common Sense Tells Us: so many religions, so many varying beliefs, and so many varying requirements —it is impossible for everyone to be right !!!

How can Christians be Sure in their Faith? So Sure that they can face eternity with both faith and hope?

II. Let us look at our ANCHOR and the real reason for our Christian Hope!

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

❖ **We have a Risen Savior – no other religion can boast of a Risen Savior**

Acts 1:3 To whom also he (Jesus) shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

I Corinthians 15:3-8 ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶After that, he was seen of **above five hundred brethren at once**; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Islam—Muhmmad (AD 570-632) died and was buried in the Prophet's Mosque in Medina -- There were No Eyewitnesses of Muhammed Ride into Heaven which took place around 621 AD. There wasn't a resurrection of Muhammad ever witnessed or recorded!! He simply died!!

The Quran was written about 150 years after his death—the Prophet Muhmmad did not write It - He was illiterate (Wikipedia)

❖ **We have the Witness of the Holy Spirit – Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: --- **An Internal Confirmation that we belong to the True God**

❖ **We have a Personal Relationship with Him and a Daily Communicate thru Prayer**

❖ **Years of Experience – God touching us in our hearts/churches, Answering Prayer, Healings, Etc.**

❖ **The Bible—HOLY BOOK of LIFE-- Endured the Test of Time – God Speaks to Us Thru His Word**

❖ **Prophecy Fulfilled in the Past -- Manifesting right before our eyes in our World Today –**

❖ **Testimonies of Christians we have known– mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, grandmas, grandpas, church leaders, friends –**

- **Visions and dreams about God and heaven**
- **Stories of personal God encounters in their lives**
- **Testimonies of miracles and personal deliverances**

III. Beware of Attaching Your Soul to a False Anchor

Matthew 7:21-27 ²¹Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. ²⁴Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

IV. Three Statements on False Anchors

- a. **ALL Religions (including NO Religion) other than CHRIST is a FALSE ANCHOR. They all lead to Destruction... John 14:6...** I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

b. Beware: Not all in Christianity's Religion is a safe anchor for the soul

2.2 billion Christians (data from 2012) (32% of the world's population) -- only about 619 million are *evangelicals— **about 28% of all worldwide Christians -- the rest are Catholic and/or other Christian Affiliated Group**

*Note: What are the core beliefs of evangelicals? --- The four core beliefs that distinguish evangelical Christians from other Protestants are: The Bible is the true word of God. Jesus Christ died for the sins of humanity, and those who believe in Him can have eternal life. Conversion and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ are essential for salvation.

c. Beware of Modern Christianity in America Today— each person doing what they think is right— Today's Gospel demands--*Change and Compromise from the Common Path of our Past Ancestors*
Remember Pew Study-- **more than 400 million people (6%) practice various folk or traditional religions, including African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.**

Judges 17:6 & Judges 21:25 (same verse repeated) In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Galatians 1:6-9 ⁶I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Incomplete List of Things Awry in Our Modern Church

- **Sipping Saints** – alcohol is not only accepted practice among the congregation but pastors also— they have taken the scripture— "*drink a little wine for your stomach's sake*" and turned it into saints becoming bartenders and Christian TV Pastors stamping their approval on the practice of drinking.
- **Loose Attitude toward Morals-** Let me alone to Live Like the Fallen World – Don't Put me under the Old Testament Law with Christian Teachings on Morals.
- **Loose Attitude toward Church Attendance- Hebrews 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
- **Loose Attitude toward Pre-marital Sex - I Corinthians 6:9-10** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
- **Loose Attitude toward Christian Growth-** Little Concern for Personal Bible Study, Prayer is not a daily routine, Praise and Worship of God is seldom practiced, ETC.

OUR MODERN CHURCH HAS CREATED A GOD OF THEIR OWN IMAGINATION--- THIS IS NOT THE TRUE GOD OF THE BIBLE!!!

This man-created God is like the various FOLK Religions listed above: CREATED BY MAN

Modern Day American Christianity is not the true Anchor of the Soul as proclaimed in the Bible – it is a FALSE ANCHOR !!

*****Closing: Notice where the anchor (CHRIST) in our text is located**

Hebrews 6:18-20 ... we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: ¹⁹ Which hope we have as an **anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast**, and **which entereth into that within the veil**; ²⁰ Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

I John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.