

From Pastor's Desk

THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL

Heb 6:19

In the ancient world, the anchor was the symbol of hope. An anchor is a heavy object attached to a rope or chain and is chosen to moor a vessel to the sea bottom, typically one having a metal shank with a ring at one end for the rope and a pair of curved and/or barbed flukes at the other. (Please provide an anchor picture)

The anchor was a popular symbol in the early church. At least 66 pictures of anchors have been found in the catacombs.

The Greek philosopher Epictetus wrote: "One must not tie a ship to a single anchor, nor life to single hope." The author of the book of Hebrews uses the term as a figurative sense. Pythagoras said: "Wealth is a weak anchor; fame is still weaker. What then are the anchors, which are strong? Wisdom, great heartedness, courage - these are the anchors which no storm can shake."

The writer of the Hebrews insists that the Christian possesses the greatest hope in the world. Our hope in Christ is like an anchor for the soul. The purpose of the anchor is to stop the ship or the ship of life from drifting around when it is not underway.

We have fled to Jesus Christ, and he is our eternal refuge. God appointed six cities, three each on the side of Jordan, into which a man could flee if he had accidentally killed someone (Joshua 20). Jesus Christ is our sure security and hope. God's promises are for sure. The unchanging promises are confirmed with an oath by two eternal truths: 1) It is impossible for God to lie 2) God's promises are immutable (unchangeable).

There is a song that Ray Boltz made popular few years ago that is titled, "The Anchor Holds." The chorus of that song says:

*The anchor holds,
Though the ship is battered;
The anchor holds,
Thought the sails are torn;
I have fallen on my knees,
As I faced the roaring seas;
The anchor holds,
In spite of the storms.*

God bless you.

Rev. K. M. Varughese

(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

From Secretary's Desk

Christian Greetings IPCLA!

At the very outset, I would like to thank you all for choosing me to a second term as the Secretary of IPC Hebron, Los Angeles. It is both an honor and a blessing to serve God, and to serve with each other of you.

I express my sincere gratitude to our Pastor, an outstanding committee and a powerful team of leaders that I had the opportunity to work with during the last year.

Moreover, I would also like to congratulate and welcome on board all the newly chosen committee members and office bearers/leaders of the various ministries.

The church belongs to the Lord and He is the builder, but we are co-laborers with Him. He blessed us with a new facility in the city of Whittier to help enable us to realize the vision that He has for us. Through all the ups and downs of our journey as a church in 2014, God taught us to remain vigilant in praying for one another and trusting Him to provide us the resources that we need to effectively execute His vision.

In Heb 6:19, Apostle Paul relates our Christian lives to a boat journey. Boat journeys are quite safe in good weather but can get very dangerous during storms. However, during such storms, the sailors let down their anchors trying to keep the boat safe. If these anchors firmly link the boat to the solid ground under the sea, the boat remains safe even during a rough storm.

Storms come to all of us, as individuals, as a family and even as a Church! In the midst of it all, let us walk uprightly, work righteousness and only speak truth in our hearts (Psalms 15), and have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil.

Therefore, in this new year of 2015, let us not grow weary in well doing as we prepare to move and continue our partnership in expanding God's kingdom.

God bless you.

In Him,

Varghese Mathew

(Secretary, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)