

Title: The Unchangability of God's Promise

Text; Hebrews 6:17-20

Would you turn, please, to

~~We are studying~~ the most Kosher book in the N.T: the book of Hebrews. And we are in chapter 6....Let us turn there, please. Hebrews chapter 6 beginning with verse 17.

I would like to continue where we left off last week. Last Sunday we were looking at the ENCOURAGEMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES.... And this encourage was seen, first of all, in the instruction to Abraham...That God told Abraham that he would bless him and multiply him. But we notice that the fulfillment of the promise came through patience.....

We also notice that the encouragement of God's promise is seen in the importance of an oath. That God swore by himself. And there is no greater power in heaven nor on the earth than the ultimate ~~source~~ source of God. So, God swore by himself. And his oath was given as a confirmation that what he said would come to pass.....

Now, today, we come to the third thing that I want you share with you about the encouragement of God's promises. AND that is: this encouragement is seen in the unchangability of God's promise. The unchangability of God's promises.....Hebrews chapter 6 beginning with Verse 17.....

(Read Vs 17-20)

Now AS we consider ^{Let us Pray} ~~the encouragement of God's promise~~, there are two promise *That I want you to remember.*
(3D) Now, ^{out} ~~the third way that~~ ^{first} ~~we see~~ the encouragement of God's promises ^{those} ~~is seen~~ in the unchangeability of ~~that~~ promise...Vs 17 and 18.....God does not

change. "I am the Lord, I change not" says Malchi 3. "Every good thing and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow" ..James 1:17.....

He is an unchangeable God. Therefore, by way of his nature, it is impossible for Him to change his promise. If God says that this is an everlasting covenant and everlasting promise that has no condition at all attached to it, God cannot change. It is impossible.

Now, there are three things I want you to see about the unchangeability of God's promise.

(1E) One, ^{Thus} with the unchangeableness is based upon God's willingness. God's willingness to tell us one more time what he has promised. I tell you that my heart really went out ^{To The Lord} in this little statement in Vs 17. ~~to the Lord~~. And I just said "THANK YOU, LORD, THAT YOU ARE SO GRACIOUS TO ME."

Look carefully at Vs 17: "In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise.".....WHO ARE THE HEIRS OF THE PROMISE?... I AM....Abraham was also. But it pertains to all the believers through out all the ages. [Now notice, God is willing to show us "even More".... ^{Why} ~~What~~ IS HE SHOWING US?....You have to keep reading down to the end of Vs 18 to find out.....THAT WE MAY HAVE STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT".....

Did you know that God wants you to be encouraged? He wants you to have the peace in your heart that ~~He~~ is going to do exactly what he says. He wants you to have encouragement.

And in order for you to have it, you know what? It is based on his willingness to keep on showing ^{His promise} ~~it~~ to you. What a God of grace do we have....

He is willing even in the case of Abraham to keep on showing him his promise, And with us it is the same thing. We are the heirs of promise. God will continually remaind you of his promise. He loves you.

You know, the point behind this is very simple. If it is God who said it, all that is necessary is saying it one time.

Have you ever said to your kids. "Listen, I am not going to say this anymore.".....Do you know what that means?....You, are going to say it more..

But, ^{That's what it is} ~~not~~ with God. God says it once and it ^{should be all} ~~is~~ over. It is His word. It is his credibility.....~~But~~ isn't it great to know that God knowing us like we know our children, God is willing to show us "EVEN MORE" his promise.... WHY".....Just so we will have more encouragement.....

Let me just share a principle from that verse which means a lot ot me. THAT IS....THAT GOD WANTS ME TO BE ENCOURAGED MORE THAN I WANT TO BE..

^{For awhile} God wants ^{me} you to receive comfort more than I want to receive it. God wants to build up my life more than I want to even have it.....~~GOD IS SO WILLING~~

God is ~~is~~ willing to show each of us, abundantly, that he loves us and that his promises will come true. And thus there is nothing to fear and nothing to question. God really wants us to know this encouragement.

(2E) Secondly, His unchangability is also based upon his Word.

According to Vs 17 the last phrase it says "guaranteed with an oath." The word "guaranteed" means " it is going to happen"....

Now, here is the thing which really ^{Blessed} ~~hits~~ me. Do you know ^{How} ~~who~~ God guarantees between our doubting that ^{He} is going to do what ^{He} is going to do? And the promises he has already stated?.....Do you know ^{How} ~~how~~ he guarantees that?

^{Answer} WITH HIMSELF.....He steps right in there. Right in that gape between our doubting and what he has said already in his Word. HE STEPS IN THERE AND ~~CONFIRMS~~ CONFIRMS IT....BY SAYING TO ABRAHAM, AND ALSO TO US, I SWEAR IT BY MYSELF BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ANYONE GREATER.....^{How about that!}

^{How} Did God have to do that?....No. He didn't have to do that. Why, one spoken word...and that ought to be enough....But he does confirm it ~~because~~ because he knows us and he loves us. He stepped ⁱⁿ ~~in~~, between, with his own character and said: "LOOK, I AM BEHIND THAT PROMISE. WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT."

The infinte, eternal, alwise, all knowing, all powerfully God steps in between our doubts and ^{his} ~~our~~ promises and says "^{Here} ~~THERE~~ I AM, WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?" I swore by ~~myself~~ myself. I am unchangable. I cannot change...SO, WHY ARE YOU DOUBTING ME....

Boy, that really hits home. God guaranteeing his ~~own~~ promises with an Oath. ^{Not} Because he had to, but because we needed it. Because ~~no~~ matter how many promises you read and hear about our doubts are still there.....We still ask: IS GOD GOING TO DO IT FOR ME?.....

Maybe you have never really had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ And thus this doesn't really mean much to you...

A lot of people know the facts of the Gospel but they never get awholed of it. They hear all these things and they hear about God's ~~promises~~ promises and there doubts are still there.....DO ~~WE~~ YOU KNOW WHO STEPS IN BETWEEN YOUR DOUBTS AND GOD'S WORD?.....GOD HIMSELF.....God himself.

You can count on Him. Don't count on other people. Count on Him....
LET ME ILLUSTRATE.....People say, "I know we are saved by faith, but I just
 don't think I have the faith.".....Ah, now we know what the problem is..
 You are not saved on the bases of your faith. As if faith ~~was~~ was some
 little item that you have that is so great, that God would then accept you
 because it is so outstanding.....OH, NO.....

Listen, the faith of the Bible always has an object. It is not the faith
 that saves you. It is the object of the faith. It is what you have faith
 in. IT IS GOD, ALONE, THAT SAVES YOU.

So, isn't it great to come with all your doubts to the facts of the
 scripture and know that it is God who has to be faithful to himself. Who
 has to confirm his own word. Who has to do what he said he would do/....

Listen, you can't build up within yourself that kind of confidence.
 THAT IS NOT SALVATION....

And a lot of people fission out because ~~because~~ it is just that. Then
 they notice that their pattern of life is not changing like it is suppose to.
 And they conclude, wrongly, that God hasn't been faithful to them. And so
 they quite....

Maybe ~~the~~ the whole problem is that you thought that your faith, your
 almighty faith was saving you.....OH NO.....NO.....COME TO JESUS AND PUT
 YOUR FAITH IN HIM. For he is ^{the} eternal God in human form. Your faith is in
 God and not in yourself.

Like the Centurian who said "Lord, I believe. But help my unbelief."
 A lot of people are not relying upon Jesus at all. They are relying upon
 what they think they have muster^{To} up in the form of faith. And it becomes
 an excerses on your part. Rather than a simple trust ⁱⁿ a God who said, "I
 will take care of it." "What more do you want. Trust me".....

Fantastice principle.....

(3E) And third, this unchangability of God promise is also based on His
work. God's work....It says in Vs 18: "in order that by two unchangeable
 things, in which it is impossible for God to lie.".....
 GOD CAN NOT LIE..... *He is Going To do His Word.*

Now, What are the two unchangeable things in the ~~chry~~ context?

One, would be the promise. And the other would be the oath. The promise will not change. And the oath can not change. ~~Those~~ Those two unchangeable things is all you need. God swore that ~~he~~ he would do it on his own character. God said it and He never lies. So, ~~it~~ it will happen.

~~Two things to confirm it.....~~

(4D) Now, the fourth way in which I see encouragement, here, in God's promise is in three beautiful illustrations that are used.

I tell you this really blessed me. It is found in the last part of Vs 18. And Vs 19 and 20.....A real blessing.

(1E) Illustration number one. This illustration deals with protection.

That God's promise provides protection to you and to me. And the ~~illustration~~ illustration at the end of Vs 18 says: "we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us."

That little phrase "have fled for refuge" appears in the Greek translation of the O.T. in Deuteronomy and Joshua referring to the cities of refuge.

Do you remember what the cities of refuge were? A person would comit a crime and if he made it to one of those cities he would be safe, until the matter could be worked out. They were cities of refuge.....PROTECTION...

And God takes that illustration and gives it to us. And says that when you come to believe in God's promise, it is like the city of refuge. It is real protection.

And he discribes it, a little more when he says at the end of Vs 18. "in laying hold of the hope set before us."

The "hope" is the promised seed. The promised seed is Christ through whom all of us are saved. Christ in you the hope of glory. You flee to God's promise in order to experience the hope you have in Jesus Christ. Like the cities of refuge. I go there for protection. I flee to the promis that will protect me from all of the doubts and questions of the world. I trust in God's promise that one day Jesus is going to come. And I am going to be with him forever.....

And nothing can change that. Because it is based on God's character and God's promise.

(2E) The second illustration involves power. God's power. You come to that promise and you are going to experience power like the anchor of the soul is used in Vs 19. It says "This hope" this hope that we have in christ's return. I believe in the context just like Hebrews 4, the issue is entering into heaven. Because that is the point of Vs 20 which we will see in a moment. ~~Going to heaven...being with God forever....~~ THAT IS THE PROMISE....THAT IS THE HOPE....

And there is an anchor of the soul when you trust God's Word.

Now, Two things about that power of the anchor, which will sustain you in the midst of all the pressures and ~~trails~~ trails of life. When those trails become ^a so great, will God keep his promises? All the pressures of life cannot escape the stability of one who is resting in the promises of God. History changes and repeats itself. *But* God's promises remain the same. Paul says that Jesus is the same today, yesterday, and forever.

Now, there are two things about this anchor that I want you to see.

(1F) One, is its stability. And there are two adjectives that describe the stability of the anchor.....The word "SURE" and the word "STEADFAST."

The word "sure" has the idea "of sure to hold and not give way". It is a proper anchor. You let it down into the water and it is sure to hold the boat in place.

The second word "steadfast" is again the word "confirmation". It means "legal" "established" "confirmation." The anchor of the soul is like a legal confirmation. The hope is going to come. And it is alike an anchor that keeps you fixed. As the boat often has a tendency to move away from the spot without an anchor. But the anchor keeps me right there.... Tremendous....

(2F) But there is a second thing about the anchor. Not only its stability, but also its security.

Very interesting thing if you follow this. Vs 19 says the anchor is both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil."

Ch Friends, Do you know what that means? Now follow this...^{you} Take the anchor and throw it into the spot where you are anchoring the boat, and you know where it landed?.....INSIDE THE HOLY OF HOLIES.....

The point of the illustration is that on the spiritual sea of life the place where you want to be is in the Holy of Holies, in the presence of God with the assurance that all of His promises are going to come true.

Now, where was the anchor dropped? Right within the veil....WHAT IS THE POINT THERE?....Within the veil was the Ark of the Covenant on which was the mercy seat. It was the place where God's glory was revealed to the High Priest once a year on the day of atonement. *And*, it was there that *The High Priest* he placed the blood on the mercy seat. The propitiation as the Bible says. *not* The mercy seat is Jesus who died and paid for all our sins.

What is the anchor to the fact that I am going to enter heaven?.... That God's promises will come true? That I will be in heaven one day? What is the anchor? The anchor is seating within the veil....It is Jesus's death on the cross for me.....THAT SETTLES IT. IT IS DONE...And I know I shall be in heaven. Because of Jesus who died on the cross for me. That is the anchor of my soul.....*Revelus, aren't you glad you came Today* *Ep 4:13*

(3E) And the third illustration involves the prospect of his promise. Because he says in Vs 20, after he mentioned the veil, "where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

The statement is that there is a "forerunner".....^{O.K}WHAT IS A FORERUNNER. Well it is just what you think it is. It is someone who runs ahead of ^{you} ~~me~~. He runs in front of you.

THE POINT IS: that Jesus has already gone into the presence of God. He assended into heaven. He has already entered there. And He has completed the full payment of our sins. The work of a high preist is done.

And that is why the statement at the end of vs 20 "having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

He is a different order than the Levitical priest. Because they still have to go through the earthly veil and still offer all the sacrifices, Not with Jesus. He is of a different order. It is all paid for. It is done. He is an anchor to my soul. I know I am going to be in heaven because Jesus paid for my sins.....

God swore my himself.....And stood between my doubts and his promises and said "WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED? I, because of my own character, WILL PERFORM WHAT I HAVE PROMISED TO YOU....."

Tremendous encouragement for the life we live....

Let us close in prayer

Oh, How I hope you know Jesus, Today. I don't understand How you can live in this world, with all of its uncertain, threats of World War, crime, fears, without knowing Jesus. Jesus is the answer to your doubts and fears and uncertainty. Jesus is the anchor for your soul.

Believe, confess your sin, and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Still we pray