

Anchors In Troubled Times

Often times this world can be a cruel place. Who has lived life on this earth without facing difficulties or heartaches? Mankind will always have to deal with the three T's: testing, tribulations, and trials. The Scriptures abundantly teach this to be so(1Pet.1:6,7; 4:12-16; 5:9; 2Tim.3:12).

Each of us has our own burdens to bear. Some Christians seem to believe that God has placed them under a "protective umbrella", where no unpleasantness can enter. Comforting, but not accurate! Life on earth is a package deal. We must take the good and the bad (Matt.5:45).

What do we do when these times come upon us? Many folks make the problems worse by turning to the wrong source for help. Did God leave us without hope or recourse? Can we face life's problems and overcome them?

We can if we have some "anchors". What is an anchor". It is a source of security or stability" (American Heritage Dictionary). God has provided us some "anchors" to aid us in our journey down the uneven pathways of life. Do we know them? Do we use them? Do they work? Together we will endeavor to answer these questions.

1. The word of God. God's word is inspired. Who created man? Who better understands man? Who could be a better counselor? "All scripture {is} given by inspiration of God, and {is} profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2Timothy 3:16-17 KJV). "Profitable" means for our own good. God's word can equip us for every good work. Do we turn to his word in times of trouble?

2. Prayer. The Bible tells us to "pray without ceasing". "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil.4:6 KJV). Do we tell God our troubles? Do we always think to pray? We have a special relationship with God, a Father and son kind of relationship. It is sad that people in the world do not have this blessing. We have it and don't use it! If we don't turn to him we show lack of trust and faith in him. Never underestimate the security of this anchor.

3. The Church. Why are we called the "family of God"? Who better understands the struggles of my life as a Christian than another Christian? Read these passages: John 13:34,35; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:15-18; 4:19-21. God commands us to love our brethren. When you are facing the onslaught that life can give you, whom do you turn to first? The person of the world or your brethren? Who is going to heaven? If we don't care now, we won't get the chance to care later!

4. The hope of eternal life. Why did Abraham leave his homeland? To offer Isaac on the altar? " For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker {is} God. (Heb.11:10 KJV). He had his focus on something better! We need to keep "focus" on heaven. Read Philippians 3:12-16; 2 Peter 1:3,4. We are told by Paul to "lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy

6:12). This is our most prized possession. Do not allow it to slip through your hands. Troubles are temporal! (Written by Brother Keith Greer//Guardian of Truth March 2, 1995)

I can tell you from my own personal experience, that listening to "firmly rooted Christians" will provide you with the correct course to follow. You like me may not want to accept the advice at first, but prayerfully, reverently, with a submissive heart, search God's word and the course of action will be evident. At times our own feelings can mislead us!!! Where did our Corinthian Brethren turn? To heathens or to the Apostle Paul?

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort {you} that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 1:3 KJV)