



HOME AT LAST

*One we've loved is gone away now and entered through the door
 That leads to peace, and rest, and love for now and evermore.
 And may our consolation be in memories of the past,
 And in the thought that the one we loved has journeyed home at last.*

- Author Unknown -

The Anchor Holds

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. Hebrews 6:19

In carrying out the symbol given in this Scripture we can say that life is a voyage. Even the very best people find the voyage of life a little tumultuous at times. The anchor is very essential to a safe journey. There are at least two threatening sources of peril.

1) *The danger of drifting.* It is much easier to float with the wind and the tide than to go against it. This is the peril that carries many people into the worst conditions of life. They permit themselves to drift.

2) *The storms that strike.* There are the pressures of temptation. Secular anxieties. Physical infirmities. Family afflictions. Spiritual conflicts. All beat down upon us with a mighty wrath, and can wreck us unless we have an anchor that holds.

The only anchor that will not snap or budge in the tempest is hope. It is sure and steadfast. It steadies the soul. Those who are anchored to God can confidently face the tides and storms of this world. Let us remember that having an anchor does not preclude storms, but rather protects us in storms.

Every strain fixes the anchor deeper. It holds even in the hour of death. This was exemplified by a dying sailor. He was near the end. A friend said, "Well, mate, how is it with you now?"

The dying man with poise and assurance replied, "The anchor holds."

May all of us be able to say in both life and death. "The anchor holds."

- Leroy Brownlow, *Give Us This Day* © (used by permission, Brownlow Publishing Co., Inc.) -



*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
 Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
 Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
 Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.*

- Priscilla J. Owens -

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life; will your anchor drift or firm remain?

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Elaine McClung and family at the passing of Keith. We will all miss Keith's dry sense of humor and his gentle way. He will surely be missed. God bless and comfort Elaine and the family.

SECRET SISTER PROGRAM RESUMING: Questionnaires available in the Lobby. Sisters desiring to participate, complete the form and **return by Sunday, March 19th.**

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, March 4th, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's.

COVERED DISH DINNER - CANCELED for next Sunday, March 5th.

OUR SPRING GOSPEL MEETING: The date is changed to April 2 - 6 with Terry Jones. Mark your calendars and plan to be here to support the meeting.

PANTRY: Cheese soup.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Calcutta Health Care: Peggy Linger. **Trinity Hospital, Steubenville:** Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece) Home address - 305 Bentley Ave., Newell, WV 26050. **At Home:** Debbie Waite, Pat Allison, Beulah Walker, Nancy Cox, Mike West, David Strum (Karen's husband), Jim Hadley, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **In Indiana:** Bill Miller (Prostate cancer). **In Rehab (address will follow later):** Sharon Beck. Home address: 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452.

Which Soil Describes Your Heart?

By Joe Slater

In His parable of the sower (Luke 8) Jesus described God's word as seed planted into four types of soil (human hearts). The seed's fruitfulness, or lack thereof, depended on the condition of the soil (heart).

First was the "wayside," literally the path or road surrounding the field (Luke 8:5). As seed cannot germinate and grow on hardpacked ground, God's word cannot grow in a hard heart. Satan easily removes the word from the resistant soul.

Next came the rock (v. 6). This doesn't mean stony ground, but a thin layer of earth atop bedrock. Seed might sprout on such shallow soil, but the tender shoot would wither and die, having no deep root to reach water. Just so, a person with shallow faith might joyfully receive the word of God at first, but would fall away in times of trial.

Third, Jesus spoke of ground infested with thorns (v. 7). Seed could begin to grow under such conditions, but the thorns would eventually choke out the good plants, rendering them fruitless. Thorns represent distractions – worldly cares, riches, and pleasures (v. 14). God's word produces no harvest in a distracted heart.

Finally, the good ground produced an abundant crop (v. 8). The good, noble heart isn't hard, has a deep and abiding faith, and steers clear of the world's distractions. Such a person not only believes God's word, but keeps it (i.e. obeys it, v. 15).

Which of these four soil types best describes your heart? Are you resisting God's word with a hard heart? Is your faith shallow, fading away when trials appear? Are you distracted with the deceitful world's cares, riches, and pleasures? Or do you have a deep, abiding faith that keeps God's word?

You control the condition of your heart!

- via BulletinGold.com -