



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The Emblems of Hope ... By Billy

READ PSALM 126

- Today I want to speak about two emblems of hope in the Bible.
- **The seed** is precious because it contains an inherent ability to reproduce itself under the right conditions.
- The spiritual seed of truth is likewise powerful to reproduce a harvest.
- The Christlike example, the anguished prayer, and the biblical counsel may appear to be falling on deaf ears and indifferent hearts.
- The spiritual rule cannot be altered. Sowing in tears will result in joyful reaping. Paul uses the image of the seed as a powerful emblem of hope to illustrate the certainty of the resurrection.
- What is sown as an insignificant, weak and lifeless kernel is raised in a glorious body. Today we consider our trials, our fears and the frailty of our body and often ask ourselves is this labour in vain.
- Is this living according to biblical teaching, this praying, this sadness for those who reject our message all in vain?
- Yet all of this provides the conditions for success. They that sow in tears will reap in joy. (1 Cor.15:58)
- The second emblem of hope is found in *Heb.6:19*, **the anchor**.
- The seed teaches us that there is a certain outcome for those who hope in God's word.
- The anchor teaches us that there is a security in knowing that what we hope for will be realised.
- The two prongs of the anchor signify the double security of our hope. Not only is our hope based on the promise of God which is absolutely sufficient in and of itself.
- The promise of God is confirmed by an oath. That is, God swore on oath that He would fulfil His promise. (See *Heb.6:13-18*)
- *"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."* (*Heb.6:18*)
- There is strong consolation in biblical hope. It is as sure as the seed and as secure as the anchor.

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Events /Notices ...

- ▶ **Church in Chains Conference** is on this Saturday in Clarion hotel, Liffey Valley. 11am to 4pm - free admission.
- ▶ **Please note that prayer @ 10.15am** precedes main service and there is no break until around 12.45am. The main meeting will begin at 11.00am directly after the prayer time.
- ▶ **Children will be taken to their classes** at 11.45am and may return before the end of the meeting. This will be reviewed in coming weeks.
- ▶ **CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship)** teaching will commence this Tuesday evening (12th Sept) for those who are interested. Please contact Michaela for details.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3 - 7 year olds in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11).

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2).