

## **The Anchor we Need**

Repetition is a proven method of teaching. Learning by rote does stand the test of time. What we learn by repetition certainly sticks fast in the mind. Throughout John's Book of Revelation is an oft repeated phrase. The phrase is, "these words are trustworthy and true". John's purpose is to repeat these words so that the church may have a steadfast anchor. "These words are trustworthy and true". What words? John is referring to the words of the gospel, the message given by Christ to His church. In a world where there were as many 'ideas' and 'approaches to life' as there were people, John declared that the words of the gospel were alone, "trustworthy and true".

How we crave for what is true! We want desperately to know what is true. If we know what is true, we possess and anchor to hold us, not only against those who would spurn the message of the church, but also against those times in the Christian life when we are tempted, like the Psalmist, to feel that we have been abandoned by God. If we read those Psalms we see how the godly people felt when things did not seem to be smooth sailing - they gave voice to their sense of desperation! But again and again in those Psalms we hear the writer expressing 'hope' in God. What was he saying even in times of great difficulty when he spoke of 'hope'? He was saying that God's words and promises could be relied upon; they were 'trustworthy and true'!

We may not receive all the answers we would wish in the Christian life. There are mysteries to God's dealings with us with respect to our 'growth in Christ'. We must be weaned from 'self confidence'; we must be disciplined because 'God is treating us as His children; we must walk by faith and not by sight. In the midst of these mysteries the Christian hears afresh the words of John - "these words are trustworthy and true". We can trust God's character even when the winds of our condition blow seemingly contrary to that character. God's words/promises are "trustworthy and true".

Pastor J Lowe