

Pilgrim's Progress (Part 2)

Quote: "One leak will sink a ship, and one sin will destroy a sinner."

– John Bunyan

- **Pilgrim returns to the way**
- **The Wicket-Gate**
 - Written over the gate: "Knock and it shall be opened unto you."
 - "strait [narrow, small or wicket] gate" (Matthew 7:13-14).
 - As a soldier, Bunyan was familiar w/walled cities & city gates
 - large gate closed, but a small man-door was used for quick & convenient entry/exit
 - gate is "strait" – constricted
 - not easily accessed
 - no room for excess baggage
 - Pilgrim has to knock more than once
- **Good Will**
 - Asks why Pilgrim is knocking
 - Quickly pulls Pilgrim inside
 - Explains about Captain Beelzebub's castle
 - Fiery Arrows (Ephesians 6:16) are created according to each Pilgrim's weaknesses
 - Arrows:
 - * "you've gone too far"
 - * "your sins are too horrible to be forgiven"
 - * "it's too late to be saved"
 - * "you have committed the unpardonable sin"
 - * "you are not one of God's elect"
 - * "the only way to escape for you is suicide"
 - In Part 2 (Christiana) this gatekeeper is told to be Jesus
 - Good Will's appearance is said to be sober & grave
 - Serious job
 - A sad task to be sin free yet take on the sins of the world
 - Man of sorrows (Isaiah 53:3)
 - **Gives Christian instructions**
 - "Look before thee; dost thou see this narrow way? That is the way thou must go. It was cast up by the patriarchs, prophets, Christ, and his apostles, and it is as strait as a rule can make it; this is the way thou must go."
 - Christian asks if there are "turnings" and "windings, by which a stranger may lose his way?"
 - (There are)
 - Good Will replies, "thus thou mayest distinguish the right from the wrong, the right only being strait and narrow" (Matthew 7:14).
 - Christian is saved here (Jesus is the Door; John 10:7, 9)
 - Christian asks for help with removing his burden
 - Could Good Will (Jesus) remove the burden?
 - Why did Good Will say, "Be content to bear it until thou comest to the place of deliverance"?
 - Christian was saved & had had his sins forgiven him
 - Why did he continue to feel the weight of his burden?
 - Remember the Calvinists teachings that Bunyan struggled with
 - * Even if you think you're saved, you might not be one of God's elect

- * Bunyan's book *Grace Abounding* dealt almost entirely with his own struggle with this doctrine & was also to help other fellow Puritans who might be having this same struggle
- * Christian needs more understanding before his burden can be lifted
- * Burden of sin & guilt
 - + perhaps it was a dual burden (sin was gone, but his remorse and guilt remained)
- **Interpreter's House**
 - Christian says that Good Will told him that Interpreter "would show me excellent things that would be of help to me in my journey."
 - Interpreter represents the Holy Spirit (Comforter, Guide, Instructor)
 - God's faithfulness in sending Christian here immediately for understanding & guidance
 - John 14:26 – "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
 - **Seven truths seen at Interpreter's house:**
 - **the portrait of the godly pastor**
 - shown first a portrait hanging on a wall
 - the importance of coming under the care of a pastor
 - * time setting: many pastors were more concerned with their paycheck & their status than the souls of their people
 - again, thought to be based on John Gifford (counseled & ministered to Bunyan)
 - * Gifford himself was once a terrible sinner (escaped hanging)
 - * perhaps his past helped him in ministering to other sinners
 - "a very grave [serious] person hang up against the wall; and this was the fashion of it: It had eyes lifted up to heaven, the best of books in his hand, the law of truth was written upon its lips, the world was behind its back; it stood as if it pleaded with men, and a crown of gold did hang over its head"
 - **the difference between the Law & the Gospel**
 - parlor room (choking dust calmed by sprinkling of water)
 - * room = heart of unsaved man
 - * dust = sin
 - * broom = Law (aware of sin; makes effort to remove)
 - * choking = Law cannot remove sin; it only makes one more aware of it
 - * water = Gospel (water of the Word; Ephesians 5:26)
 - * the answer is not more sweeping, but an application of the Gospel
 - + only the Gospel can truly cleanse from sin
 - **the virtue of patience contrasted with passion**
 - Story: 2 children sitting on 2 chairs; Passion discontented; Patience was calm & quiet; Passion wanted his "things" now, but Patience was willing to wait. Someone brought Passion a bag of treasure & poured it out at his feet. Passion rejoiced & made fun of Patience. But soon Passion's wealth was gone & he had nothing left but rags.
 - * 2 children represent men of the world
 - * Christian realized that Patience was wiser of the two because he was willing to wait for his inheritance
 - * We all have a Patience & Passion within us; who will win?
 - + have it now or wait for the greater glory?

- **the grace of Christ conquers the assailed heart**
 - fire – on one side of the wall a man was trying to put it out with water
 - * the fire doesn't go out!
 - * fireplace = heart of a child of God
 - * water to put it out = devil's efforts
 - + water = worldliness, indulging the flesh, lukewarmness, laziness, lethargy
 - Interpreter showed how fire continues to burn
 - * other side of the wall Christ is pouring oil of grace on the fire
- **the persevering, valiant pilgrim**
 - beautiful palace; many desiring to go through the gate; armored men blocking the way
 - back a little from the door was a man sitting at a table with a book & inkhorn, writing down the names of those determined to enter the gate
 - a brave man fought with the men blocking the way; received & gave many wounds; gained entrance into the palace
 - many want to enter, but few have the courage or they count the cost & decided it's too much
 - palace = the Kingdom of God (the Church of God)
- **the despairing reprobate in the iron cage**
 - without hope, in despair, cannot escape his iron cage
 - he was once a professing Christian
 - God no longer speaks to him OR he cannot believe
- **the warning of the final day of judgment**
 - Christian is led into a bedroom where a man is getting out of bed; the man is very afraid
 - * the man has just dreamed of The Judgment
 - * the man tried to hide "but could not, for the Man who sat upon the cloud continuously kept his eye on me"
 - * the man woke up & realized that he was not prepared for The Judgment
- **Interpreter to Christian:** "Have you carefully considered all of these things?"
 - Don't forget them; let them be as a goad (prick, thorn) in your side
 - Christian: "Here I have seen things rare and profitable, Things pleasant, dreadful, things to make me stable In what I have begun o take in hand: Then let me think on them, and understand Wherefore they showed me were, and let me be Thankful, O good Interpreter, to thee."
- **Place of Deliverance**
 - straight highway is walled with salvation (Isaiah 26:1)
 - highway leads up (difficulty increases); but Christian tries to run!
 - Bunyan likens this to his own experience
 - Saved but after three years of spiritual unrest & lack of understanding, he finally understood & the burden was lifted!
 - the burden was buried in the tomb
 - the emphasis is not on the Cross
 - crucifix a Catholic practice
 - the thought of Jesus hanging on that Cross is what caused the burden to fall off Christian's back
- **Simple, Presumption, and Sloth**
 - at the bottom of the hill, Christian finds three men asleep w/chains attached to their heels
 - the new Christian cannot understand why others are lazy, sleeping, uninterested

- Simple = doesn't study his Bible; spiritually ignorant
- Presumption = proud; can do this without any help
 - has the attitude, "God will accept me just as I am"; "God understands"
 - he "presumes" on God's mercy
- Sloth (laziness) = indulges in fleshly pleasures until they put him to sleep spiritually
- Christian tries to wake them up & warn them; he offers to try to help remove their shackles
 - Simple: "I do not see any danger"
 - Sloth: "Just let me have a little more sleep"
 - Presumption: "Every tub must stand upon its own bottom" (without any help)
- They don't want to wake up, receive counsel, or be free from their shackles
- These three had come from the Cross, but returned to their sin almost immediately
- Christiana will encounter these same three men – but the chains are no longer around their ankles; they are hanging with the chains around their necks