

***“The Pilgrims Progress”***  
***Principles For Pilgrims***  
***(Pages 14b-16a)***

**Introduction:**

1. Last Week - We Went The Pilgrim:
  - Of John Bunyan’s “Pilgrim’s Progress” - To:
    - The Wicket-Gate!
  - Where - When He Knocked - And:
    - The Door Was “Opened Unto” Him:
      - He Became A Christian:
        - Not Only In Name:
          - But In Nature!
  - Even As Paul Tells Us:
    - In 2 Corinthians 5:17:
      - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
2. So - When Christian Came To That Door:
  - He Came - Just As He Was!
    - As Just A “Poor Sinner!”
      - But Also - As An Awakened Sinner:
        - Who Was - By The Grace Of God:
          - Honest & Humble & Hungry:
            - For “Righteousness!”
  - And - When The Door Was Opened To Him:
    - By The Man Named “Good-Will”:
      - Christian Found Him To Be:
        - Truly Good!
          - Good In His Work, His Watch-Care Over Him, And His Welcome:
            - With All Of His Heart!
3. Well - After Such A Warm Reception:
  - His New Friend:
    - Sent Him On His Way:
      - To The House Of Another Friend:
        - Whose Name Was “Interpreter!”
  - And He Told Him That:
    - When He Reached His Door:
      - “He Should Knock, And He Would Show Him Excellent Things!”
  - So - With Joy & Trembling:
    - At The End Of Page 14, Paragraph 2:
      - *“Then Christian Took His Leave Of His Friend, And He Again Bid Him God-Speed!”*
  - And This Is Where Our Journey Continues!
    - *Read Through Pg. 16, Paragraph 6:*
      - *“Therefore It Is That The First Of These So Suddenly Fall Into Amity, And That Distance Is So Continued Between The Second!”*
4. So - To The House Of The Interpreter:
  - Our Christian Pilgrim Comes & Knocks & Enters!
    - The Interpreter:
      - Represents The Holy Spirit Of God:
        - The Third Person Of The Trinity:
          - And His Ministry To:
            - All Believers In Christ:
              - Both New And Old!
  - And - Just As It Was:
    - The First Place Christian Came To:
      - After His Welcome At The Wicket-Gate Of The Gospel:
        - It Is The First Thing That Takes Place:
          - In The Life & Heart:

- Of Every New Child Of God!

- So - Even Though In Our Story:

- Christian Goes To The Interpreters House:

- The Interpreter - The Holy Spirit:

- Comes Into Your Heart:

- To Make It His New Home!

- Even As Jesus Promised In:

- John 14:16-17 - "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you!"

5. And - The Change That Takes Place:

- Once The Holy Spirit Comes On The Scene:

- Is Remarkable!

- Because - His "House" Takes On A Whole New Look!

- The "House Of The Interpreter" May Represent:

- A Couple Of Things!

- Some Think Bunyan Meant For It To Be:

- The Church - Others Think It Means:

- His Word! All Appropriate Suggestions For This Symbol!

- But - Perhaps Bunyan Meant For It To Represent:

- The Changed Heart Of The Christian:

- As It Interacts With **Both**:

- God's Word & God's People!

- Because - Through Them:

- The Holy Spirit Uses His Work Of Illumination:

- To Guide Us Into All Truth!

- Even As Jesus Said In - John 16:13 - "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come!"

6. So - Before Christian Met Interpreter:

- He Was Able To Understand:

- The Most Basic Truths:

- That Were Written In:

- The Book In His Hand!

- But - When The Interpreter:

- Opened The Door To **His** House:

- We Find That Some Of The Greatest:

- "Mysteries Of The Kingdom" Come To Light!

- And - This Is Why:

- Good-Will First Sends Christian:

- To The Good-Man Of This House!

- So That He Could:

- "Light The Candle" Of His Renewed Mind & Heart!

7. And - What Happens Next?

- Interpreter Shows Him 7 Rooms In His House:

- That Will Help Christian:

- On The Rest Of His Journey:

- To The Celestial City!

- Because - He Knows That:

- The Path Is Still Fraught With:

- Dangers & Difficulty!

- And - He Will Need To Remember:

- These Lessons - Or - These:

- Principles For Pilgrims!

- In A Way - These Are Allegories Within An Allegory!

- And Some Believe Bunyan Put These Here:

- To Help Us Learn How To Interpret:
  - The Rest Of His Story As Well!
- Tonight - We Are Going To Focus On:
  - The First Three Of Those Rooms:
    - Which - I Think - Will Be Just As Profitable:
      - For Our Journey Of Faith:
        - As It Was For Christian!

\* In The First Room - Interpreter Wants Us To See:

**1     *The Guide For Our Journey!***

- If You Recall - In That Room - Interpreter Showed Christian:
  - A Picture Of A Man - Described In This Fashion:
    - P16/P6 - “A Very Grave Person – It Had Eyes Lifted Up To Heaven, The Best Of Books In His Hand, The Law Of Truth Was Written Upon His Lips, The World Was Behind His Back. It Stood As If It Pleaded With Men, And A Crown Of God Did Hang Over Its Head!”
  - Of Course - The Person In This Picture:
    - Represents Faithful Pastors & Preachers Of The Gospel:
      - Whom God “Hath Authorised To Be Thy Guide In All Difficult Places Thou Mayest Meet With In The Way!”
    - And - More Than Likely:
      - Bunyan Was Thinking Of The Godly Pastor Used By The Lord To Lead Him To Christ!
        - Pastor John Gifford!
  - What Bunyan Wants Christian - As Well As Us - To See:
    - Is That Godly Leaders:
      - Play An Important Role:
        - In Our Spiritual Walk With & Growth In The Lord!
  - We Need Ministers Who:
    - Can Honestly But Humbly Say:
      - As The Apostle Paul Did - In 1 Corinthians 11:1 - “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ!”
    - And So - Every Detail:
      - Of This Portrait Is Important!
- The Business Of This Man:
  - Is Seen In That He Was “A Very Grave Person!”
    - If You Remember - This Is How Bunyan First Described Good-Will At The Wicket-Gate!
      - Because - Just Like His Lord - The Servant Of The Lord’s Business:
        - Is Also A Serious Business! It Is A Matter Of Life & Death! Eternal Life & Eternal Death!
    - So - Should The First Think You Look For:
      - In A Minister Or Preacher Or Pastor:
        - Be His Jokes Or His Stories Or His Wit & Humor?
          - No - You Need Someone Who Is Also About His Father’s Business!
  - The Belief Of This Man:
    - His “Eyes” Were “Lifted Up To Heaven!”
    - Don’t You Want A Guide:
      - Who Knows Something About:
        - Where He Is Going & Where He Is Leading You To?
          - Because - As Jesus Said - “And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch!”
  - The Book Of This Man:
    - Is The Bible! It Is The “Best Of Books!”
      - A Library Of Books Is OK - As Long As:
        - They Help Him Learn More & Know More About:
          - ***This*** Book!
  - The Behavior Of This Man:
    - Is Described As - “The Law Of Truth Was Written Upon His Lips!”
      - He Was A Man Of Character!
        - Who Sought To Think & Live & Speak:

- According To God's Word - The "Law Of Truth!"

- The Bent Of This Man:

- Is Seen In This Way - "The World Was Behind His Back!"

- Some Might Say That:

- To Be Too Heavenly Minded:

- Is To Be No Earthly Good!

- But - In Truth - The One Who *Is* Heavenly Minded:

- Does The *Best* Good & Makes The Best Guide:

- In This World!

- Colossians 3:2 - "Set Your Affections On Things Above, Not On Things On The Earth!"

- Matthew 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you!"

- The Bidding Of This Man:

- His Posture Is - "As If It Pleaded with Men!"

- To Bring Others - Not To Him:

- But To The Lord!

- This Is The "Portrait Of A Godly Pastor!" (Horner)

- And - The Interpreter Is Telling Christian:

- That Every Christian Sheep:

- Needs This Kind Of Shepherd And Guide!

- The Apostle Paul:

- Gives His Own Portrait Of Godly Pastors:

- In His Pastoral Epistles - To Timothy & To Titus - Because Of How Important It Is:

- To Have Someone Help You Grow In The Grace & In The Knowledge Of The Lord!

- As I've Heard From Some Godly Pastor's I Have Known:

- Even Pastors Need Pastors:

- Like The One Described Here!

- And - I Find It Interesting How Interpreter:

- First Describes This Portrait To Christian:

- P14/P8 - "The Man Whose Picture This Is, Is One Of A Thousand!"

- Does Bunyan Mean:

- That There Are Many:

- Of These Kinds Of Pastors?

- "One *Of* A Thousand!" - Or:

- Does He Mean:

- That There Are Few:

- Of These Kinds Of Pastors?

- "One *In* A Thousand!"

- Some Take It One Way:

- While Others Take It The Other!

- Perhaps Bunyan Wanted There To Be Some Ambiguity:

- To Show That Though This Kind Of Christian Leader Is Rare, It Is Not Yet Extinct!

- I Have Spent Some Time This Week:

- Studying This Portrait For Myself:

- And Praying That I Might Be:

- This Kind Of Shepherd:

- For This Flock!

- This The First Principle For Pilgrims!

- You Need A Good & Godly:

- Spiritual Guide For Your Journey Of Faith!

\* Then - Interpreter Took Christian Into A Parlor - Because He Wanted Him & Us To See:

## 2. *The Gospel For Our Journey!*

- You See - The Gospel Is Something We Need:

- Not Just At The Beginning Of Our Christian Journey:

- But - All Throughout!

- In The Parlor - If You Recall:
  - It Was Full Of Dust!
    - The Room Represents:
      - Our Hearts - And:
    - The Dust Represents:
      - Our “Original Sin And Inward Corruptions, That Have Defiled The Whole Man!”
  - The Man - Who Represents:
    - What The Law Of God Does:
      - Comes In With A Broom:
        - To Try To Clean It Up!
    - But - What Happened?
      - P15/P2 - “The Dust Began So Abundantly To Fly About, That Christian had Almost Therewith Been Choked!”
  - This Is What The Apostle Paul’s Experience Was As Well:
    - Romans 7:7-12 - “What shall we say then? [Is] the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. / But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin [was] dead. / For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. / And the commandment, which [was ordained] to life, I found [to be] unto death. / For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew [me]. / Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.
- But Then - The Interpreter Called In:
  - The Damsel - Who Represents:
    - What The Gospel Can Do:
      - With The Water Of God’s Word!
  - As Interpreter Said To Christian;
    - P15/P5 - “When The Gospel Comes In The Sweet And Precious Influences Thereof To The Heart, Then . . . So Is Sin Vanquished And Subdued, And The Soul Made Clean, Through The Faith Of It, And Consequently Fit For The King Of Glory To Inhabit!”
- This Is True:
  - When You Are *First* Saved!
    - But - It Is **Still** True:
      - For *As Long As* You Are Saved!
  - When Your Lusts & Sins:
    - Begin To Rise Again:
      - In Your Mind & In Your Heart:
        - You Need To Be Sprinkled Again By The Sweet Waters Of The Gospel!
  - The Good News That:
    - 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 - “Christ Died For Our Sins According To The Scriptures; And That He Was Buried, And That He Rose Again The Third Day According To The Scriptures!”
- So Even Now:
  - The Gospel That:
    - Conquered Your Sin Then:
      - Conquers Your Sin Still!
  - The Gospel That:
    - Cleansed Your Heart Then:
      - Still Cleanses Your Heart Now! And:
  - The Gospel That:
    - Conformed Your Will To God’s Will Then:
      - Will Still Conform Your Will:
        - More And More Even Now!
- So - Whenever:
  - The Dust Of Your Old Self:
    - Begins To Swirl Around Again In Your Heart:
      - Call Forth Christ & His Good News:
        - To Calm & Cleanse Your Heart!
- This The Second Principle For Pilgrims!

- You Must Never Get Over Your Need For The Gospel:
- In Your Journey Of Faith!

\* Then - Interpreter Took Christian Into Another “Little Room” - To Show Him & Us Our Need Of:

### 3. ***The Glory For Our Journey!***

- In This Room - We Meet With Twins:
  - Named Passion & Patience:
    - Whose Character Traits:
      - Are Summed Up:
        - In Their Names!
  - But - There’s An Interesting Thing:
    - About These Names:
      - That You Don’t Notice On The Surface!
    - You See - Both English Words:
      - Come From The Same Latin Word:
        - Which Means:
          - To Suffer! (Pati)
  - Our Word Patience:
    - Refers To Suffering In A Present Sense:
      - Which Means That:
        - When You Suffer:
          - You Will Remain Steadfast!
    - And This Was True:
      - Of That Child Patience In That Room!
        - He Was Able & Willing To Endure:
          - Because Of What He Knew:
            - Was To Come!
      - The “Glory Of The Next World” That:
        - “Will Never Wear Out!”
    - Even As Jesus Taught:
      - Matthew 6:19-21 - “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: / But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: / For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!”
  - But - On The Other Hand - Our Word Passion:
    - Refers To Suffering In A Passive Sense:
      - Which Means That:
        - When You Suffer:
          - You Will React!
    - And This Was True:
      - Of That Child Passion In That Room!
        - He Was Not Willing To Wait:
          - Because He Wanted Everything Now & At Once!
    - This Is What We Need To Remember:
      - When We Struggle Between:
        - These Two Worlds - In Which We Now Live!
      - Your Passion:
        - Is Part Of Your Old Man:
          - When You Lived In:
            - The Old World!
      - Your Patience:
        - Is Part Of Your New Man:
          - That God Has Given You:
            - With Hope For The New World To Come!
      - And This Is Why Paul Tells Us:
        - In Romans 8:24-25 - “For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? / But if we hope for that we see not, [then] do we with patience wait for [it]!”

- When You Let:
  - Your Old Passion Rule:
    - You Will Want Your - “Good Things First!”
  - But - When You Let:
    - Your New Patience Rule:
      - You Are Willing To Wait For The:
        - “Best Things Last!”
  - Because - As Bunyan Puts It:
    - Who Gets A Bit Philosophical At This Point:
      - “Things That Are First Must Give Place; But Things That Are Last Are Lasting!”
- And This Is The Third Principle For Pilgrims!
  - You Must Always Keep In View:
    - The Glory That God Has For You In The Gospel:
      - And - With Patience - Wait For It!
    - Because - As Paul Reminds Us:
      - In Romans 8:18 - “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!”

**Conclusion:**

1. When Christian Set Out For Interpreters House:
  - Good-Will Told Him That There:
    - “He Would Show Him Excellent Things!”
      - These Three Principles For Our Christian Pilgrimage:
        - Are “Excellent Things!”
2. And - The Holy Spirit:
  - Continues To Use:
    - His Word - God’s People - And Our Own Minds & Experience:
      - To Illuminate Us & Give Us More & More Understanding:
        - About This Journey We Are On!
3. So - As We Anticipate:
  - The Next Four Rooms & Principles:
    - Remember These!
      - You Need A:
        - Reliable Guide For Your Journey!
          - Even As Sheep Need A Shepherd!
      - You Need To Always:
        - Remember The Gospel In Your Journey!
          - Keep Preaching It To Yourself!
      - And - You Need To Always:
        - Keep The Glory Of Heaven:
          - In Your Mind - As You “Wait For It” With All Patience!

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