

The Pilgrim's Progress

HTPC Summer 2019
OPENING ASSEMBLY
Week 10

Review: Memory Verse #1

For here we have no
lasting city, but we seek
the city that is to come.

(Hebrews 13:14)

Review: Memory Verse #2

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

(1 Peter 2:11)

LEARN TODAY: Memory Verse #3

Hebrews 11:13-16

“These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”

The Cross

1. Jesus, You hung on the cross to take my burden from me.
It rolled into the open tomb, and I'm forever free!
Jesus, what You bore, was wrath that was meant for me.
Oh, how can I describe such love as You, Lord, have for me?

2. Jesus, You hung on the cross to give me raiment so new.
You took the rags I wore with shame, oh Savior faithful and true.
You now call me Your own, and I gladly call You "Lord."
And if there be any good in me, it's only because of You.

3. Jesus, You hung on the cross to put this scroll in my hand.
You placed your mark upon my head, and now before You I stand.
Savior, take my life, and make me what You will.
May Your praise be ever on my tongue till my heart lies cold and still.
May Your praise be ever on my tongue till my heart lies cold and still.

Children's Classes Dismissal

Chapter 13 – Walking with Ignorance

- **Warning of Shepherds in Chapter 12**

1. Written instructions to guide them on their way.
2. Admonition to beware of the flatterer.
3. Admonition to be careful not to sleep n the Enchanted Ground.
4. Wish of God’s blessing on the journey.

Man-made salvation – works salvation

Ignorance says “Gentlemen, you are absolute strangers to me; I don’t know you. Please be content to follow the doctrine of your country, and I will be content to follow the doctrine of mine. I wish you well. But as for the Wicket-gate you mention, all the world knows that it is a long way from our country. I don’t think a single person in our whole region even knows the way to it. Nor do they need to worry about whether they do or not,, since we have, as you can see, a fine, pleasant, green lane that comes down from our country into the way.”

Prov 26:12 “Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

Ecclesiastes 10:3 “Even when the fool walks along the road, he lacks sense, and he says to everyone that he is a fool.”

The Story of Little-faith

- Little-Faith
- Good man
- From town of Sincere

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS.

WCF 17.1 – They, whom God hath accepted I his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved. 2. This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ, the abiding Spirit, and the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace; from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.

Psalm 90:14 “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”

PS 145:4-7 “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare you mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, an on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, an I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.”

Hopeful Misjudges Little-faith

Esau	Little-faith
Birthright was earthly	Jewels were not earthly
Belly was his god	Belly was not
Desire lay in his fleshly cravings	Desire did not
Could see no further than fulfilling his lusts	Of little faith but kept from such indulgencies
Could not but sell birthright	Was able to see and prize his jewels so as not to sell them

Hopeful's Idealism

1 Peter 5:8 – “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Hebrews 5:11-14 – “About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good and evil.”

Great-grace and Fighting the Good Fight

- Christian gives two we should do when robbers attack:
- We must go fully equipped – Eph 6 – the armor of God.
- Desire a convoy. Don't go alone whenever possible.

- Think about how do you react in trials?
- Where do you go?
- Do you recount the deeds of the LORD claiming that he will certainly help you in this one as well, or do you recount your difficulties as Little-faith did?
- As in the verses in Psalm I included from Psalm 145, do you meditate on the wondrous works of God. Do you speak of God's abundant goodness?
- Are you on solid food from discernment trained by constant practice?

“Poor Little-faith! Have you been among thieves?

Were you robbed? Remember, if you believe,

You'll get more faith; then a victor you'll be.

Over ten thousand, and not a mere three.”

Chapter 14 – The Pilgrims are Deceived

- They realized they had ignored two of the Shepherds warnings: 1) Follow the written instructions to guide them on their way. 2) Beware the Flatterer
- “This is not a picture of a temptation to turn aside altogether from the good way. The path of the destroyer appeared to run parallel to that in which they ought to have kept. Nor did they go blundering on, but consulted with one another. Therein they were mistaken, for they should have consulted their Book of instructions. Then they were misled by a gentleman of pleasing appearance, who looked like a servant of the King of Kings, and who spoke softly to them assuring them that, as he himself was bound for the Celestial City, he could lead them thither. His winning accents caused them to yield themselves to his guidance; and, by-and-bye, their faces were turned directly away from the city towards which aforetime they had been pressing. You see, it is not a case of deliberate choice of sin; but rather of being deluded through neglect of the Word of God, which is the true guide of the pilgrim.” Charles Spurgeon – *Pictures from Pilgrim’s Progress*

The Pilgrims are Deceived

- “There are flatterers of this kind in our own hearts. It has often happened, in our own experience, that we have been living in simple dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the straight and narrow way which leadeth unto life eternal, and, and, bye-and-bye, we have, perhaps read the experience of some great man, and we think, ‘Well, it must be right to feel as he felt, to doubt as he doubted, to be tempest-tossed as he was.’ This is another road, and we begin to think that it is well to live by feeling. The flatterer does not tell us, in so many words, to give up faith in Christ alone. We would recognize him, and be shocked if he did that: but he insinuates that we may walk a little by our holy feelings. We are not now such infants as we used to be; we have grown in grace somewhat; we may now rely a little upon the past; there is not the same need to be daily handing upon Christ; why not rest on what was enjoyed at conversion, and make up, if necessary with some present frames and feelings, present power in prayer, or present usefulness in the Lord’s work?” Spurgeon – Pictures From Pilgrims’ Progress

Encounter with a Shining One

- The dialogue goes:

Shining One - "But didn't you pull it out (Shepherds instructions) and read it when you were confused about which way to go?"

Christian and Hopeful - "No."

Shining One - "Why not?"

Christian and Hopeful - "We forgot."

Shining One - "Didn't the Shepherds warn you to beware of the flatterers?"

Christian and Hopeful - "Yes, but we didn't imagine that this fine-speaking man was one."

- Is instinctive for you and me to go to God's Word?

"Now come here, you who walk along the way,

See how the pilgrims fare who go astray:

Taking lightly good counsel, they forget

And are soon caught in an entangling net;

It's true they were rescued, but still you see,

They're whipped to boot: let this your caution be."

On the Enchanted Ground

Spurgeon in Pictures from Pilgrim's Progress gives a picture of the sleeping Christian:

- He is insensible.
- Sleep is a state of inaction.
- The man who is asleep is also in a state of insecurity.
- A Christian is most liable to sleep when his temporal circumstances are all right.
- Another dangerous time is when all goes well in spiritual matters.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 – “So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9 – “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

“When the saints grow sleepy, let them come here
And listen how two pilgrims' words remain clear.
Yes, let them learn from these and become wise,
So to keep open their dull, slumbering eyes.
The fellowship of saints, if managed well,
Keeps them awake, in spite of all Hell.”

Closing Assembly

He Who Would Valiant Be

1. He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy follow the Master.
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

2. Who so beset him round with dismal stories
Do but themselves confound—his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight,
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim.

3. Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit,
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labor night and day to be a pilgrim.