

The Pilgrim's Progress

HTPC Summer 2019

OPENING ASSEMBLY

Week 9

Chapters 11 and 12

Memory Verse #1 and #2

Any volunteers to recite from memory?

Hebrews 13:14

1 Peter 2:11

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)

Memory Verse #3

Hebrews 11:13-16 (just v. 13 still)

“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.”

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

The Pilgrim's Progress

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Chapters 11 and 12

Review

- "Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory of the spiritual journey"
- City of Destruction to the Celestial City
- Wilderness between
- The Lord has purposed trials in the wilderness
- What is in our heart, what we love
- Will we put our trust in God and his Word

Chapters 11 and 12

- **This week we will look at two contrasting scenes:**
 - Doubting Castle where a GIANT Despair and his wife Distrust live.
 - Delectable Mountains, a picture of the health of life in the Christ's church
- **Key Texts**
 - **Psalm 88**
 - **Philippians 1:21-26**
 - **Ephesians 4:11-13**

Seized by Giant Despair

- They had found a shelter in this meadow to sleep until day break not realizing it was owned by Giant Despair.
- Giant Despair found them and questioned why they were on his property.
- He was stronger than they were and demanded they follow him.
- He put them into a dark, foul dungeon for 4 nights
 - Mark 3:27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man, then indeed he may plunder his house.

Distrust's Persuasions

- Giant Despair's wife was named Distrust.
- She advised her husband to beat the prisoners unmercifully.
- Distrust then told her husband to counsel them to kill themselves.
- So he went to them again with this counsel:
 - “Why should you chose life since it involves so much bitterness and pain?”
- He left them with a knife, rope and poison to pick from.

Hopeful Refuses to Abandon All Hope

- Christian begins to be mournful, “The life we are living is miserable, the grave will be easier than this dungeon. My soul would rather chose to die than to live.” Job 7:15-16
- Hopeful agrees that dying would be better than living like they were but says lets reconsider a moment.
 - The Lord has commanded that we not murder Ex 20:13
 - You speak of comfort in the grave, but have you forgotten Hell? 1 John 3:15
 - All authority does not lie in the hands of Giant Despair. 1 John 4:4

The Giant Doesn't Give up

- The Giant came back and seeing them alive flew into a rage saying that you will hope that you were never born.
- Christian and Hopeful renewed their discussion with Christian still doubting and Hopeful still appealing for endurance in doing good.
 - Galatians 6:9
- Then the Giant and his wife agreed to show them the bones of other pilgrims and said in 10 days I will tear you apart like them.

Remembering the Key of Promise

- The Giant and his wife feared that they had HOPE keeping them alive.
- They planned to go in the morning to search the pilgrims for the hope
- But that night, Christian and Hopeful began and continued to pray until morning.
- Christian remembered the Key of Promise that opens every door in the Castle.
 - Acts 16:25, Galatians 3:22, 2 Tim 1:1, Hebrews 6:15, 1 John 2:24-25

Escape From Doubting Castle

- The key opened all the castle doors
- The last door made enough noise to wake Giant Despair but was struck with one of his seizures and could not pursue them.
- Christian and Faithful got back on the King's High-way and were out of the Giant's jurisdiction so they were safe once again.

Principles of Doubting Castle

- First, the importance of keeping to the way no matter how much easier or attractive the alternatives look.
- Exercise the promises of God to gain assurance and stay out of the dungeon of doubt and despair?

Ch 12 – The Delectable Mountains

- The Delectable Mountains belonged to the Lord of the Hill.
- Gardens, orchards and vineyards and the fountains of water.
- They drank the water and washed themselves and freely ate from the vineyards
- Near the mountaintops, there were shepherds feeding the flocks.

*The Mountains Delectable they now ascend,
Where shepherds are, which to them do commend
Allurements and cautions; learn to keep clear;
Pilgrims are kept steady by faith and by fear.*

The Conversation with the Shepherds

- Is this the way to the Celestial City?
 - Yes, you are on the right way
- How far is it from here?
 - Indeed, too far for any but those who will get there
- Is the way safe or dangerous?
 - It is safe for those for whom it is to be safe
- Is there anywhere for weak and weary pilgrims to find rest and renew?
 - Yes, the Lord of these Mountains has given us a charge that we not forget to entertain strangers (Heb 13:1-2)

Shepherds

- Names -
 - Knowledge
 - Experience
 - Watchful
 - Sincere
- Whyte - Four basic characteristics of a good pastor
- Thomas Scott sees the shepherd as “the more extensive acquaintance of many aged Christians with the Ministers and Churches of Christ.”

The Mountain Called Error

- They carefully escorted them to the top on the Mountain called Error.
- It was very steep on the far side and Christian and Faithful saw many dead bodies at the bottom who went too high on this mountain or who came too near the edge.
 - 2 Tim 2:17-18 - Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

The Mountain Called Caution

- They could see people walking and stumbling around the tombs.
- When the going got tough, these chose the easier steps to the pleasant looking meadow which is owned by Giant Despair.
- After time in the dungeon, Giant poked out their eyes and put them among the tombs to fulfill the saying of the wise man:
 - Prov 21:16 A man who strays from the path of understanding comes to rest in the company of the dead.
- Christian and Faithful, realizing how close they were to eternal doom, began to sob

A By-way to Hell

- Inside the they heard the sound of a roaring fire and the cries of people suffering in torment
- The shepherds explained
- This is a by-way to Hell for hypocrites:
 - Esau (Ge 25:29-34)
 - Judas (Matt 26:14-16, Mark 14:10-11, Luke 22:3-6)
 - Alexander (1 Tim 1:20)
 - Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)
- Hopeful commented that each of these appeared to be on pilgrimage.

A View of the City

- The shepherds decided to show them the Gates of the Celestial City
- Their shaking hands from the last view lowered their confidence in what they had seen but thought they saw the gate and some of the glory of the City. 1 Cor 13:12
- They descended the Hill singing a song highlighting how the shepherds reveal valuable secrets hidden from others.

*Thus by the Shepherds secrets are revealed,
Which from other men are kept quite concealed
Come to the shepherds, then, if you would see
Things deep, things hid, and that mysterious be*

Discussion Questions

Q4. Christian and Hopeful are tired from their journey and arrive at the Delectable Mountains seeking rest. What might these “restful mountains” symbolize? Why are they so important?

Q5. The Puritans used to describe the Lord’s Day as “the market day of the soul.” From which spiritual goods and delicacies does your soul most benefit on the Lord’s Day?

Q9 Christian and Hopeful are given a sight of the Celestial City through the “Perspective Glass.” When did they best see the City – when they were at peace or afraid? Is getting a glimpse of the “Celestial City” a vital necessity to our pilgrimage?

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.