

Journey to the Celestial City

A Study of Pilgrim's Progress

To the Place of Deliverance

Encounter with Worldly Wiseman

Mr. Worldly-Wiseman advises Christian to get rid of his burden as soon as possible in order to enjoy the blessings of life. He belittles Evangelist, the way he has sent Christian and the earnest study of the Bible. Mr. Worldly-Wiseman is civil, charming and confident. His counsel would have Christian settle in the village of morality where Mr. Legality and Mr. Civility live, who are skilled at removing burdens. He pretends for someone like Christian to have sympathy, but for the gospel of the cross he has enmity. He sends Christian the way of carefully observing the demands of the law of God. But instead of finding relief, Christian finds fear and condemnation. Evangelist chastises him and tells him he has just encountered counterfeit Christianity. He shows Christian several serious concerns

1. Spurning the counsel of God (Heb. 12:25)
2. Bypassing the cross of Christ and substitutionary atonement
3. Leaving the way to life and taking the pathway that leads to death



Mr. Worldly-Wiseman directs Christian out of the way.

Verse for reflection: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things, which are written in the book of the law to do them (Gal. 3:10).

Entrance through the narrow gate



Christian knocking on the wicket gate.

After returning to the way, Christian arrives at the wicket gate. He begins knocking, repeatedly, earnestly, hoping for entrance. A man appears by the name of Goodwill and Christian explains to him that he is a poor burdened sinner, seeking deliverance from the wrath to come and was told this was the way to Mount Zion, and asks if he will let him in. Goodwill is more than willing, opens the gate and pulls Christian in because of the darts of Beelzebub shot at pilgrims seeking entrance. What are some of these darts?

- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____

When Christian asks Goodwill if he could relieve him of his burden, the memorable answer from Goodwill is: "As to thy burden, be content to bear it until thou comest to the place of deliverance; for there it will fall from thy back of itself." Bunyan's marginal notes say: "There is no deliverance from the guilt and burden of sin but by the death and blood

of Christ."

Verse for reflection: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able" (Lk. 13:24).

Education at the house of the interpreter

Christian comes to the house of the interpreter where he will be taught many things about the Christian life. Christian needs instruction and illumination by the Spirit to teach him things he needs for the journey (Jn. 14:26). Richard Sibbes: "The role of the Spirit is to introduce and intimately acquaint us with the Father and the Son." He is taught 7 things.

1. Portrait of a true and faithful pastor
2. Parlor room full of dust
3. Two children named Passion and Patience
4. Fire burning in a fireplace
5. Valiant man fighting his way into a beautiful palace
6. Despairing reprobate in an iron cage
7. Dream of judgment day and being unprepared

Burden lifted at the cross

John Bunyan shows us Christian on the highway that is walled on both sides (called _____). It is a directing wall. He is still struggling because of the burden on his back, but he comes to the cross and looking at the cross he feels the cords that held the burden to his back coming loose and it tumbles into the open sepulcher where he saw it no more. Where are burdens of sin removed? At the _____. This is the place where Christ paid the penalty for sin, made propitiation and accomplished redemption (2 Cor. 5:21). How is the burden of sin removed? By a look of faith. Christian perceives by faith that what Christ has done on the cross is completely sufficient to satisfy the wrath of God and remove the burden of sin. It fills him with joy and wonder. Here three benefits of salvation are conveyed:



Christian's burden comes down at the cross.

- ❖ He receives the robe of righteousness
- ❖ He receives a mark on his forehead. This mark sets him apart from the world and marks him as a true child of God
- ❖ He receives a sealed scroll, which speaks of his _____.

Discussion Questions

1. Mr. Worldly-Wiseman urges Christian to get rid of his burden with all speed. Was this sound advice?
2. According to Hebrews 6, is there a condition from which it is impossible to repent?
3. When Christian's burden rolled away, where did it go? Where did his burden of sin go?
4. Do you know something of entering at the narrow gate, the darts of the enemy and the burden of your soul being lifted at the cross of Christ?