

The Pilgrim's Progress: A Study

Week 4: Section 3- Interpreter's House (Pastor's Notes)

Cover the Narrative

Let's take time to discuss the basic story of pages 25-34, focusing on these key questions:

1. As Christian departs from the wicket gate, where is the first stop that he makes?
He arrives at the House of the Interpreter.
2. How does Christian describe himself to the doorman?
He calls himself a traveler.
3. What does Christian tell the Master of the house that he expects to see?
Many excellent things, such as would help Christian on his journey.
4. What does Christian see in the first private room? Be detailed in your answer.
A painting on the wall of a very grave man (earnest and serious). The man's eyes are lifted up to heaven (heavenly minded/prayerful) and he is holding the best of books in his hand (The Holy Scriptures). The law of truth is upon his lips (meaning that he speaks God's truth). The world is behind him (he has left the City of Destruction and all of its lures and corruptions) and he is pleading with men (doing the work of an evangelist). Finally, a crown hangs over his head for he knows that his reward is great, but it is not of this world.
5. What does the Interpreter say is the meaning of this picture?
The picture represents the need of a pastor in the life of a Christian. A pastor should meet the qualities displayed in the image: prayerful, heavenly-minded, loves the Bible, speaks the truth, uncorrupt, and preaches the Gospel of Christ. Such a man is a God-given guide to the Lord's people on their pilgrimage.
6. What did Christian find in the next room?
A large room full of dust, having never been swept.
7. What did the Interpreter call to have done? What then happened?
He called that the room should be swept, which stirred the dust so badly that Christian nearly choked. At that point, Interpreter ordered a girl to bring water, sprinkling the room. It then could be swept.
8. What is the interpretation of this scene?
The room represents the unregenerate heart with dust representing sin. The law is the broom that reveals the dust (sin), but has no power to subdue it. The water represents the Gospel which subdued the sin (dust).
9. What did the next room contain?
Two children, Passion and Patience. Passion is discontented, wanting everything now, while Patience is willing to wait for the best things.

10. How was this illustrated?

A treasure is brought before Passion, but he soon squanders it all and has nothing. Patience will wait for his greater treasure later.

11. What did Christian see in the next room?

A fireplace against a wall with a person attempting to quench the fire by drenching it with water.

12. Did they succeed in putting the fire out?

No, the fire burned higher and hotter.

13. What does Interpreter show Christian so that he will understand why the fire is sustained?

Interpreter takes Christian around the wall to the backside of the fireplace, where a man is continually throwing oil onto the fire.

14. What does this represent?

Christ's gracious activity in the heart of the believer to sustain him during the attacks of the devil. It is a picture of grace during spiritual warfare.

15. What is Christian taken to see next?

To a beautiful palace, where there were armed guards at the door, and a man at a table. Many men recoiled from their approach out of fear for the fierce guards. It was then that Christian saw a man of bravery who walked up to the man at the table and ordered him to write down his name. At that point, he charged the gate, battling the guards. He gave and received many wounds, but made it through with much celebration.

16. What did this represent?

That the Christian life is of hardship and battle and that it is through many tribulations that we must enter the Kingdom of God.

17. Where is Christian taken next?

To a dark room containing a man in an iron cage.

18. What does this man represent? (discuss this at length in class)

The warnings of holy Scripture against apostasy. He is to remind us of the serious sin mentioned in Hebrews 6.

19. What is the final room which Interpreter shows Christian?

A chamber in which a man is rising out of bed, trembling. This man is not gathered with the wheat into the storehouse, but with the tares to be cast into the burning lake.

20. What does this represent?

The terror of the final judgment for all those outside of Christ.

Assignment for next week:

For next Wednesday night, please read pages 34-42 in the supplied book.

- **Christian at the Cross** (Page 34), **Simple, Sloth and Presumption** (page 35), **Formalist and Hypocrisy** (page 36), and **The Hill of Difficulty** (Page 38)

If you can, fill out your worksheets, and look up the Biblical references in your Bible.

-I look forward to seeing you again, then!