

**The Pilgrim's Progress**  
**Chapter 6 – The Cross and the Sepulcher**  
**July 16, 2014**

- I. "Easy-Believism"
- A. Easy-Believism is a label used to characterize the **faulty** understanding of the nature of saving faith. In it sinners are encouraged to trust in Christ's saving work with little or no regard for his **lordship** over all of life.
- "sinners cannot obey the gospel, any more than the law, without renewal of heart." - As J.I. Packer**
- B. How has Christian's journey contrasted with the idea of "easy-believism?"
- C. What need does Christian's journey remind of us? **THE NEED TO PERSEVERE**
- II. Assurance of the "Great Exchange"
- A. Christian's burden is removed
1. His burden is **brought** to the cross (book to Interpreters House)
  2. His burden is **loosed** as he looks (Num. 21:4-9 **faith is portrayed as "looking" ...what does he see?**)

**a short way ahead, while enjoying fellowship at the Palace Beautiful, Christian recalls how at this place, "I saw one, as I thought in my mind, hang bleeding upon the tree; and the very sight of him made my burden fall off my back."**

3. His burden is **buried** as he looks (proof that his sin has been dealt with)
- B. The Three Shining Ones gave Christian **assurance** of his new identity
1. Christian's sins have been forgiven
  2. Exchange of filthy rags for new clothing
  3. A mark on the forehead and scroll with a seal
  4. Christian has now begun to claim his inheritance (Eph. 1:18-20) (**possess his possessions**)
  5. Bunyan describes his own relief at the foot of the cross in Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners:

"I remember that one day, as I was traveling into the country and musing on the wickedness and blasphemy of my heart, and considering the enmity that was in me to God, that Scripture came in my mind, He hath "made peace through the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20). By which I was made to see, both again, and again, that day, that God and my soul were friends by this blood; yea, I saw that the justice of God and my sinful soul could embrace and kiss each other through this blood. This was a good day to me; I hope I shall not forget it."

- C. The scene
1. Wall of Salvation: Pilgrims are given **sovereign** and **secure** guidance as they seek relief from their burdens. (Is. 26:1; 60:18)
  2. Cross: Stands as a declaration that Christ has **atoned** for human sin
  3. Removal of rags: Depicts God's act of **imputing** human sin to Jesus Christ (**passive obedience**)

4. New clothing: God's act of **imputing** the righteousness of Christ to sinners (active obedience)
5. The sealed scroll: Is a symbol of Christian's **assurance** of salvation. Christian is marked out as belonging to God. (Eph 1:13-14)

### III. Definitions and Questions

- A. **assurance of salvation:** The **internal** sense we may have based upon certain evidences in our lives that we are truly "born again" and will persevere as Christians until the end of our lives.
- B. **justification:** An instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) **thinks** of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) **declares** us to be righteous in his sight.
- C. **sanctification:** A progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from **sin** and more like **Christ** in our actual lives.
- D. **perseverance:** The doctrine that all those who are truly "born again" will be kept by God's **power** and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly "born again."
- E. **atonement:** The work Christ did in his life and death to earn our **salvation**.
- F. **propitiation:** A sacrifice that **bears** God's wrath to the end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into **favor**.
- G. **imputation:** To **think** of as belonging to someone, and therefore to **cause** it to belong to that person. God "thinks of" Adam's sin as belonging to us, and it therefore belongs to us, and in justification he thinks of Christ's righteousness as belonging to us and so relates to us on this basis.
- H. **active obedience of Christ:** A term referring to Christ's **perfect obedience** to God during his entire earthly life, which earned the righteousness that God credits to those who place their faith in Christ.
- I. **passive obedience of Christ:** A term referring to Christ's **sufferings** for us in which he took the penalty due for our sins and as a result died for our sins.
- J. When did Christian become a Christian?
- K. Explain "easy-believism" in your own words.
- L. Do you think that God wants true believers to go on throughout life worrying about whether they are really born again, or to have firm assurance that they are his people? (1 John 5:13)
- M. What would Scripture encourage you to do to resolve those doubts (2 Peter 1:5–11; also Matt. 11:28–30; John 6:37)?