

The Pilgrim's Progress
Chapter 5 - The Interpreter's House (Part 2)
June 25, 2014

- I. Seven Lessons all Christians should learn and remember (adapted from "A guide to John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*" by Ken Puls)
 - A. The Lesson of a Portrait of a Pastor
 1. Christians should seek out good **shepherds** to watch over their souls.
 2. A Christian should imitate his shepherd as his shepherd imitates Christ.
 - B. The Lesson of a Dusty Room
 1. Christians should be able to **distinguish between** the Law and the Gospel.
 2. The Law exposes how sinful we are, it was never meant to **cleanse** our hearts.
 3. **"Live a Gospel-driven life." – Derrick Thomas**
 - C. The Lesson of Passion and Patience
 1. Christians should learn the **value** of Patience and the **deceptiveness** of Passion.
 2. Christians should learn to have faith in God's providence.
 3. Christians should lead a life of **contentment**.
 4. **Puritan quote..."live with your bags packed and ready to go."**
 - D. The Lesson of a Burning Fire
 1. Satan is ceaseless in his attack upon Christians.
 2. The perseverance of the saints is **all** of **Grace**.
 3. Christians should realize that they're in a fight with Satan, but Jesus is the victor. **We must remember to look "behind the wall."**
 - E. The Lesson of a Beautiful Palace
 1. Christians must face, with faith and courage, enemies along the Way.
 2. The **sword** and the **helmet** are important in the battle
 3. There are many who have gone before us, go with us, and will go after us.
 4. The battle is worth fighting.

- F. The Lesson of a Nightmare (Scene #7)
 - 1. The time is short. **Make sure you are in Christ.**
 - 2. Christians should be confronted with the certainty of **death** and the **judgment**.
- G. The Lesson of a Man in an Iron Cage (Scene #6)

READING BY JOHN, MARLIN AND SCOTT

- 1. Christians need to **persevere**.
- 2. Christians should watch, be sober-minded and pray.

"Yes, but John Bunyan does not tell you that the man never did get out? There have been some in that iron cage that have come out. There may be one here this morning, who has been for a long while sitting in that iron cage, rattling the bars, trying to break them, trying to file them through with his own little might and strength. Oh! dear friend, you will never file through the iron bars of that terrible cage; you will never escape by yourself. What must you do? You must begin to sing like the bird in the cage does; then the kind master will come and let you out. Cry to him to deliver you; and though you cry and shout, and he shutteth out your prayer, he will hear you by-and-by; and like Jonah you shall exclaim in days to come, "Out of the belly of hell I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me." CHS

II. The Perseverance of the Saints

- A. *"The perseverance of the saints means 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."* – Wayne Grudem
 - 1. We are assured because God keeps us
 - 2. Continuing in the Christian life is evidence of our being born again
 - 3. Those who fall away may give many external signs of being born again

III. Hebrews 6: 4-12

- A. Context
- B. Warning **against falling away**
- C. Illustration

1. Fruitfulness
 2. Fruitlessness
- D. Encouragement
1. To be diligent
 2. To pursue assurance
 - a. Assurance: 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. 1689 LBCOF Chapter 17: Of the Perseverance of the Saints

Chapter 17: Of The Perseverance of the Saints

1. Those whom God hath accepted in the beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, and given the precious faith of his elect unto, can neither totally nor finally fall from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved, seeing the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, whence he still begets and nourisheth in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit unto immortality; and though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon; notwithstanding, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from them, yet he is still the same, and they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraven upon the palm of his hands, and their names having been written in the book of life from all eternity.
(John 10:28, 29; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 John 2:19; Psalms 89:31, 32; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Malachi 3:6)

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 and union with him, the oath of God, the abiding of his 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.
(Romans 8:30 Romans 9:11, 16; Romans 5:9, 10; John 14:19; Hebrews 6:17, 18; 1 John 3:9; Jeremiah 32:40)

3. And though they may, through the temptation of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins, and for a time continue therein, whereby they incur God's displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit, come to have their graces and comforts impaired, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded, hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves, yet shall they renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.
(Matthew 26:70, 72, 74; Isaiah 64:5, 9; Ephesians 4:30; Psalms 51:10, 12; Psalms 32:3, 4; 2 Samuel 12:14; Luke 22:32, 61, 62)

What the vision and Hebrews 6 doesn't teach? That a true Christian can fall from grace and become a reprobate.

Professing Christians do fall from grace.

There is a condition from which it is impossible to repent

What would you say to a person like the man in the Iron Cage?

What this man in the cage represents are those men and women who have been sealed in their unbelief. In recounting this, Christian described this man in the cage to Piety as “the Man [who] had sinned himself quite out of hopes of Gods mercy” (p. 49). Bunyan says in another place, “The day of grace ends with some men before God takes them out of this world.”[7] See Ex. 9:12, 14; Deut. 29:18-19; 1 Sam. 28:4-6; Is. 66:4; Rom. 1:28-31; 2:3-5; Eph. 4:18-19; 2 Th. 2:10-12; 1 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 6:4-6 and Jude 5, 6, 13. Thomas Scott says, “But we should leave the doom of apparent apostates to God; and improve [i.e. make use of] their example, as a warning to ourselves and others, not to venture one step in so dangerous a path.”[8]

Derick Thomas Sermon

"I have here a copy of *Pilgrim's Progress*, and it was given to me on my birthday in 1973—however many years ago that is. And it was given to me by a roommate of Rosemary, my wife, and I won't tell you her name. She signs her name in here, and there's an inscription in here, a Bible text from Psalm 128:1,2: "Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord but walketh in His ways, for thou shalt eat the bread of thine hands. Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee." That's what she wrote in my copy of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

The week before graduation from University — as I recall now, she was studying law - her father, who was totally opposed to her evangelical Christianity, promised her that he would buy her this marvelous house if she renounced her profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and she did. And from that day to this day, she has never professed faith in Jesus Christ. It's one of those things that sends a shiver down my spine.

I'm not going to pronounce on what her end may be. I don't know. I suspect; and, as the years go by, I suspect even more...I leave that entirely up to God. I leave that entirely up to God. Many of us have tried to visit her and speak to her, and as the years go by it's got more and more difficult for us to do that. She won't even see her friends, her one-time friends, any more. And Bunyan is saying, Let that be a warning to you."

IV. Next Week's Lesson – Chapter 1 – 5 Summary (PowerPoint Presentation)