

The Pilgrim's Progress
Chapter 18-19 – “Hopeful’s Conversion and Ignorance’s Confession of Faith”
November 12, 2014

*“If I’d have a thousand gallons of blood in my body, I could spill it all for the sake of the Lord Jesus.” -
Hopeful*

“Ignorance is thy name, and as thy name is, so art thou.” - Christian

- I. The Scenes
 - A. The Shining One put Christian and Hopeful back on the narrow way
 - B. Christian and Hopeful are on their way through the Enchanted Ground (prior was the Delectable Mountains and afterward will be Beulah land)
 - C. Hopeful began to get drowsy
 - D. Christian remembered the warning from the Shepherd to beware of the Enchanted Ground

“The need to resist falling asleep on the Enchanted Ground illustrates the Puritan insistence that Christians must be watchful in their daily lives.”

- II. Hopeful tells of his conversion (a “flashback”) **READ Eph 2:1-10**

“When Christian and Hopeful decide to keep each other awake with conversation about their spiritual experiences, they are practicing what the Puritans called **“Christian conference”**— conversation among Christians on the spiritual life.”

- a.i.A. Continued a great while in the delights at Vanity Fair - **treasures and pleasures**
- a.i.B. He shut his eyes against the light because
 - a.i.B.1. He was **ignorant** that it was the work of God
 - a.i.B.2. He didn’t want to stop **sinning**
 - a.i.B.3. He didn’t want to part with his old **companions**
 - a.i.B.4. He didn’t want to experience the frightening hours of **conviction**
- a.i.C. He would get rid of his thoughts but they would come back worse when
 - a.i.C.1. He met a good **man**
 - a.i.C.2. He heard the **Bible** read
 - a.i.C.3. His head **hurt**
 - a.i.C.4. Was told that his neighbor was **sick**
 - a.i.C.5. He heard the bell toll for someone **dead**
 - a.i.C.6. He thought about his own **death**
 - a.i.C.7. He heard about sudden **death** happening to someone
 - a.i.C.8. He thought about quickly coming to **judgment**
- a.i.D. He **mended** his life but trouble continued to come
- a.i.E. Scripture convinced him that his works won’t fix **past** transgressions and the best he can do **now** is mixed with sin
- a.i.F. He went to Faithful
 - a.i.F.1. Faithful used **scripture** to point him to the righteousness of a Man that never sinned.

- a.i.F.2. Hopeful expressed his objections against believing because he thought Jesus would be **unwilling** to save him.
- a.i.F.3. Faithful told him to go to Christ and see
- a.i.G. Hopeful prayed over and over and thought many times to stop praying
- a.i.H. Hopeful finally saw Jesus with the eyes of his **understanding**
- a.i.I. His conversion had an effect on his spirit
 - a.i.I.1. He realized that the world is in a state of **condemnation**
 - a.i.I.2. He realized that God the Father can justly **justify** the coming sinner
 - a.i.I.3. He was made greatly **ashamed** of the vileness of his former life
 - a.i.I.4. He was confounded with a sense of his own **ignorance**
 - a.i.I.5. He now loved a **holy** life
 - a.i.I.6. He now longed for the **honor** and **glory** of the name of the Lord Jesus

III. Ignorance's Confession of faith

- a.i.A. Does not like the **company** of the Pilgrim's
- a.i.B. His **heart** told him he left all for God and heaven
- a.i.C. Said his heart was good because it **comforts** him with hopes of heaven
- a.i.D. Said his heart and life agree. Believes this because his **heart** tells him so.
- a.i.E. Says he will never believe that his heart is **bad (even when confronted with scripture that indicates otherwise)**
- a.i.F. Says he believes in Christ for justification **(through his own obedience to God's laws)**
- a.i.G. Thought that justification by faith in Christ alone would cause people to live **sinful lives.**
- a.i.H. Thought that Christian and hopeful were in **error**...their beliefs were "the fruit of distracted brains."

IV. Application questions

- A. What is regeneration? How would Ignorance have described regeneration? **God secretly and sovereignly imparts spiritual life to those who have been called**
- B. What is conversion? How would Ignorance have described his conversion? **We willingly respond to the gospel call, repenting of sin and placing faith in Christ for salvation**
- C. What is saving faith? How would Ignorance have described his faith? **Trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God (knowledge/assent/trust)**
- D. What is repentance unto life? How did Ignorance describe his repentance? **a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ**
- E. What is justification? **How did Ignorance describe his justification? An instantaneous legal act of God in which he declares that our sins are forgiven and Christ's righteousness is ours**
- F. What's so important about the doctrine of justification by faith alone? **It is the doctrine upon which the confessing church stands or falls. Without it there is no salvation, no sanctification, no glorification — nothing.**
- G. Is justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone easy? (Thabiti Anyabwile)
 - a. **Purchasing - Our salvation comes at infinite cost to the Son of God**

- b. **Obtaining - straight and narrow is the way and there are few who find it**
- c. **Maintaining - The flesh will war against the Spirit. Sin will deceive and tempt. The enemy sets snares. The world sings its siren song. Many will not love the truth and will turn back.**

V. Next Week: DVD #12 "The Celestial City" and read Chapter 20 "The Pilgrims Enter Celestial City"

