

**The Pilgrim's Progress
Summary Lesson
December 3, 2014**

*"Now, reader, I have told my dream to thee, See if thou canst interpret it to me,
Or to thyself, or neighbor: but take heed of misinterpreting..." - John Bunyan*

I. The historical context of "The Pilgrim's Progress" (number ascending by date of occurrence)

- _____ Bishop's Bible
- _____ The Pilgrim's Progress
- _____ Martin Luther's 95 Theses posted
- _____ King James Version of the Bible first published
- _____ Geneva Bible
- _____ Second London Baptist Confession of Faith
- _____ Institutes of the Christian Religion
- _____ Westminster Confession of Faith

II. The intended profit of "The Pilgrim's Progress" as stated in the author's Apology

- a.i.A. "This book it chalketh out before thine eyes the man that seeks the everlasting prize."
- a.i.B. "This book will make a traveler of thee."

III. The author's Conclusion of "The Pilgrim's Progress"

- a.i.A. Warnings
 - a.i.A.1. Misinterpretation
 - a.i.A.2. Extreme interpretation of the "outside" of the dream
 - a.i.A.3. Joking about the figures or similitude
 - a.i.A.4. Fighting over the figures or similitude
- a.i.B. Exhortations (Horner)
 - a.i.B.1. Find the substance of the matter
 - a. The gospel of the _____ of Jesus Christ
 - b. The _____ sanctification of the authentic Christian pilgrim
 - c. The vital importance of the local _____ and _____ encouragement
 - d. The _____ of eventual arrival at the Celestial City
 - a.i.B.2. Preserve the gold

- a.i.B.3. Throw away the cross (What is the cross?)

IV. Application questions

“Now thou hast come to die; thou hast gathered up thy feet in the bed; the death sweat stands upon thy brow: thou art sinking so far as this life is concerned among the sons of men, but underneath thee shall then be the everlasting arms. Beautifully has Bunyan described confidence in death, when he pictures the pilgrims passing the river. Christian cried out to young Hopeful, “I sink in deep waters, the billows go over my head, all his waves go over me.” Then said Hopeful, “Be of good cheer, my brother, I feel the bottom, and it is good.” Thus, beloved, shall it be with you. You shall feel the bottom of death’s chill river, but you shall say “it is good”; for underneath are the everlasting arms. Then comes the last plunge, and we shall be as when a man stands on the edge of a precipice and leaps over into the clouds below him. You need not fear to take your last farewell and drop into your Father’s arms, for underneath you shall be the everlasting arms; and oh, how sweetly shall you be caught up together with the Lord in the air, pressed to the bosom of the great Father, and borne upward into the heaven of heavens, where you shall behold the face of the Well Beloved, and find yourselves entranced in his company for ever and forever. O heir of glory, underneath thee there is no hell: underneath thee there is no annihilation: underneath thee are the everlasting arms; therefore commit thy spirit unto thy faithful Creator, and then welcome life or death, for all is well with thee.” Spurgeon

