

The Pilgrim's Progress
Chapters 5 & 6 Review

The characters and main places in these two chapters are Worldly-Wiseman, Mr. Legality and the Village of Morality. Let's get some clarity and definitions on them.

- 1) Worldly-Wiseman - the Amplified Bible says in I Corinthians 3:19; "*For this world's wisdom is foolishness (absurdity and stupidity) with God, for it is written, He lays hold of the wise in their [own] craftiness.*" It also says in James 3: 13-17; "*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*" NKJV
- 2) Mr. Legality or Legalism is pursuing good works with the intention of earning God's favor. The end being - to save one's self. It takes being justified by faith out of the equation and only leans on its good works. It negates that what Jesus did by dying for us on the cross isn't enough; hence, we have to add to it with legalistic pursuits to gain His favor. In essence, we must take it into our own hands to be accepted by God.
- 3) Morality is the quality of being in accord with standards of right or good conduct or a system of ideas that fall into those same categories. We hear about Christian morality in society and it usually refers to qualities like good, goodness, rightness, virtue, and righteousness. Ethics, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is "a set of moral principles; a guiding philosophy and a consciousness of moral importance." So we use right and wrong to determine our morals or ethics. It's also framed by culture, religion or philosophical concepts or beliefs which will regulate and generalize these concepts and in so doing, regulate behavior. If you comply with these set standards, you're considered a 'moral' person. Simply saying, we'll act according to our own perception or morality, what's morally acceptable for one culture, isn't for another.

So Christian, before he has even reached the cross to become a Christian, is being side-tracked and taken off the straight path that leads to the wicket-gate, by smooth talking Worldly-Wiseman who tries to convince him that there is a much easier, shorter and less troublesome way to get rid of his burden. He doesn't have to follow what Evangelist has told him. He equates Christian to other weak men, meddling with things too high for them, that it will humiliate him, cause him to suffer and more! Worldly-Wiseman offers him to be a good secular person, which morals can change depending on the climate and what's going on and not to take the message of the cross too seriously. He undermines the integrity and authority of the Bible and dissuades any from reading it.

*For you who are seeking Jesus Christ, this wisdom of the world will do its utmost to make you seem and look foolish. But they're lies. Stay on the path that leads to the cross. The world's wisdom will offer you a place of morals and legalism. These two will seem to offer safety, friendship, contentment, a high standard of living, an enjoyable environment, financial security and an attractive lifestyle. **BUT**, they CANNOT take away your burden of sin. They'll gloss it over to make you believe you're not a sinner who needs to be saved.

Christian is wooed into believing that what he's been told is truth, but as he approaches Mr. Legality's house, he's overcome with terror and paralyzed by fear. He sees he's entering into total legalism, not freedom. He sees things as they really are – bondage! Evangelist asks him what he's doing there and why he's turned aside from his council and going in the wrong direction. Paul in Galatians is very straight up when he says to the Galatian people, in 1:6; "*I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel*", and in 3:1-3; "*O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the LAW (legalism), or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*"

How many countless souls have been and are daily being ‘bewitched’ by false doctrines and religions, going down another road which takes the cross out of the picture and is painted as easy, less ridicule, peaceable etc? The Bible calls them doctrines of demons (I Timothy 4:1). Evangelist tells Christian there are three things he’s to utterly detest about Worldly-Wisemans council; 1) His ability to lead him out of the way; 2) that his zealous effort to portray the cross as abhorrent to him and 3) his directing Christian`s feet toward that way which leads to the administration of death! I Corinthians 1:18 says; *For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*!

Mr. Worldly-Wiseman was offering the `flesh` road, the road of bondage to legalism and the deception of morality, trying to convince Christian that he could gain access to the heavenly city through these means.

Again, there is only one way to become a Christian and having the hope of living eternally in heaven with God, it`s by asking Jesus Christ to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, to repent of your sins, turn from your self-seeking way of life. Ephesians 2:8-9 says: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

