

We have found a new edition of the book, **The Life and Death of Mr. Badman**, done by Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Stonier in England who has edited into modern English which is extremely helpful to comprehend. To read the book and chapters that we will be studying, please go to this link (which is his website), [The Life and Death of Mr. Badman](#), scroll down the page to the title of the book, click on it and it will open the PDF version of it.

September 11, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman Opening and Chapter 1

We are pretty excited to be able to share this book with you over the next while as it's been our hearts for a while to do it! Unlike Pilgrim's Progress, it is definitely not as well known, and yet it is the third part to John Bunyan's famous aforementioned book. To me, it is probably due to the topic matter discussed, that being of hell and the reality of it. As we studied Pilgrim's Progress for the past nine months, we constantly saw Christian meeting people whose paths were taking them to hell and yet his ultimate destination was heaven because he did not reject the gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Mr. Bunyan had a passion for souls and the same fervour with which he wrote Pilgrim's Progress, he wrote this book using such forceful language of the time to turn the most 'nominal' to the 'vilest' of sinners away from the highway to hell to the straight and narrow path to heaven. Not much has changed over the past hundreds of years since the writing of his book, and **II Timothy 3:1-7** comes to mind in reading it, *"But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times [of great stress and trouble] will come [difficult days that will be hard to bear]. For people will be lovers of self [narcissistic, self-focused], lovers of money [impelled by greed], boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane, [and they will be] unloving [devoid of natural human affection, calloused and inhumane], irreconcilable, malicious gossips, devoid of self-control [intemperate, immoral], brutal, haters of good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of [sensual] pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of [outward] godliness (religion), although they have denied its power [for their conduct mollifies their claim of faith]. Avoid such people and keep far away from them. For among them are those who worm their way into homes and captivate morally weak and spiritually-dwarfed women weighed down by] the burden of their] sins, easily swayed by various impulses, always learning and listening to anybody who will teach them, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"* We have been and are in the last days and this book comes with a heavy warning to those who want to mess around in sin and think there is no consequence to it. Many times when Jesus healed, delivered or conversed with people he said, 'go and sin no more'. I believe what this book is meant to do is to invoke repentance from sin to faith in Jesus Christ.

What is presented in this dialogue between two men called Wiseman and Attentive, is the story of the man Mr. Badman who has just died. Bunyan methodically lays out the steps his character takes that lead him to hell, starting as a young child through adulthood into old age. Sin, when not repented of, gives way to continual and habitual sin which leads to death as it says in **James 1:14-15**, *"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."* In showing such clarity the sins Mr. Badman was walking in, it gives warning to us to see if we ourselves are on the same road of destruction.

Although in his book Bunyan does not write about Mr. Badman's funeral but only that he has died, he alludes to what could possibly transpire at Mr. Badman's funeral, things which are usually performed at great men's funerals, as he gives his reader a short overview in his letter entitled "The Author to the Reader", the following four points, which are in italics;

"First: In their death, they are sometimes presented before their friends in lively language, by men's hands, as fine as they can be, that the remembrance of them may be rehearsed again before their survivors by their memories and deeds. This I have tried to do in my discourse of Mr. Badman, as I draw out his features and

actions from his childhood to his grey hairs. Here, therefore, you have him presented in lively episodes, both in his younger years, the flower of his life, and the seniority of his age, together with those actions of his life that he was most capable of, in and under the present circumstances of time, place, and strength, and the opportunities that presented themselves to him in these.

Second: There is also displayed at great men's funerals those badges and escutcheons [boards bearing the family crest] for their honour, which have been handed down from their ancestors, or been thought worthy of reflecting the deeds and exploits they did in their lives. And here, Mr. Badman had his, but those that are suitable from all men of worth, and agree with the merit of his actions. They are all descended in state, but he alone was an abominable branch. His deserts are the deserts of sin; and therefore the escutcheons of honour that he possessed are only that he died without honour, "and at his end became a fool." (Jer. 17:11) "Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial...the seed of evil doers shall never be renowned" (Is. 14:20).

The funeral pomp, therefore, of Mr. Badman bears upon his hearse the badges of a dishonourable and wicked life, since "his bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down", as Job states, "with him in the dust." (Job 20:11) Nor is it right that any should be his attendants at his death but those who conspired with him against their own souls in their lives, those whose transgressions made them infamous to all that know what they have done.

Some notice, therefore, here in this little discourse, I also give the reader concerning those who were his confederates in his life and attendants at his death; with a hint either of some high villainy committed by them, or of those judgements that have overtaken and fallen upon them from the just and revenging hand of God. All these things are either fully known by me as an eye and ear-witness to them, or what I received from such hands whose word in this I am bound to believe. That the reader may distinguish them from other matters and passages contained here, I have pointed them out as we proceed.

Third: The funerals of people of quality are solemnised with some suitable sermon at the time and place of their burial; but I have not yet come to this, having got no further than Mr. Badman's death. But forasmuch as he must be buried after he has stunk out his time before his beholders, I do not doubt that some such that we read of, that were appointed to be at the burial of Gog, will do this work in my place, those that shall leave him neither skin nor bone above ground, but shall set a sign nearby till the buriers buried it in the valley of Hamongog. (Ezek. 39:11)

Forth: At funerals, there is mourning and lamentation; but here Mr. Badman differs from others. His family and friends cannot lament his departure, for they have no sense of his damnable state. Instead, they rather ring him and sing him to hell in the sleep of death. Good men count him no loss to the world, for his place can well be without him. His loss is only his own, and it is too late for him to repair that damage or loss by a sea of bloody tears, were he able to shed them. Yes, God has said he will laugh at his destruction (Ps.37:13). Who, then, will lament for him, saying, "Ah, my brother! He was but a stinking weed in his life; nor is he better in his death"? He might as well be thrown over the wall without sorrow once God has plucked him up by the roots in his wrath."

As we usually do when we chat it up with people at work, in the street or at home, the thread of the conversation usually leads to what's going on in our personal worlds and the world at large. Likewise do Wiseman and Attentive as they meet each other early one morning. As I alluded to in the Bible verse above in **II Timothy 3:1-7**, is what is weighing on their hearts, the bad and evil times of their day. It's sad that many times we start on a negative note - whether it be the weather, our sports team loosing, bad politics, children making wrong decisions and well the list goes on and on - before someone, like Wiseman, turns the conversation around to something positive. Here, he gets our eyes back on our Creator, God, who if He holds

your heart can turn the bad into good. **Psalm 91:15-16** says; *“He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”* **Proverbs 3:1-3**; *“My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”*

Jesus talks about fearing Almighty God regarding eternal life in **Luke 12:4-5**, *“And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”* Wiseman is making reference to Mr. Badman’s final destination, hell. We are an immortal being and will live eternally in either heaven or hell. We have to ask ourselves a serious question; are we more fearful about what people think of us than to be fearful about the consequences of our sin and God’s final judgement on our lives?

There are so many beliefs as to what happens after life, we don’t have time to discuss them, but according to the Bible, the sure word of prophecy and the only truth, it’s either eternity in heaven or eternity in hell, depending on which one you want to call home. Wiseman points out three questions that will aggravate the ungodly person’s decision for hell.

1. *“For what am I being tormented?”* The simple answer is, sin. **Romans 6:22-23** says; *“But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* And **Revelation 20:14-15**; *“Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”*
2. *“How long must this be my state?”* The simple answer is, forever. **Revelation 20:10** says; *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*
3. *“What have I lost more than present ease and quiet by the sins I have committed?”* The simple answer, eternal separation from God. **Matthew 19:29** says; *“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.”* **Romans 6:23**; *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

A person’s physical, mental, financial state or culture or location does not determine their eternal destination; the state of their heart does, whether they are a saint or a sinner. What was Mr. Badman’s greatest sin? Was it all the bad and terrible things he did as we’ll read about? No, it was that he rejected Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. We’ll read in the chapters to come about his childhood, and it is important to point out here that Mr. Badman came from a Christian home. It says he was the oldest sibling and had one godly parent. Now we don’t know if it was father or mother, but one of them daily instructed him the scriptures, the consequences of right and wrong and probably took him to Sunday School and church every week. Has that been you? As a child did one of your parents take you to church and week after week you sat under godly instruction, yet you’ve dug your heels in and rejected Jesus as Lord of your life? I’d urge you to repent and change your heart! The Bible says in **Ephesians 6:6**; *“children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with a promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’”* Many of you may have cursed your parents out, rebelled against their authority in your life and now you’re receiving the consequences of what you chose to do. Jesus talks about the betrayal of family members one to another in **Mark 13:11-13**; *“But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak but the Holy Spirit. Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”*

The Bible says we will know a person by their fruits, or by their actions and deeds we will know who their Father is. Wiseman is not making a capricious statement here regarding Mr. Badman`s eternal state in hell. Mr. Badman actually somewhat reminds me of Ignorance from Pilgrim`s Progress who thought his eternal destination was heaven also, but it wasn`t, instead it was hell. **Luke 9:25-26** says; *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.”* Please also read [Matthew 25:31-46](#) and [Romans 6](#).

In conclusion, I`d like to end with another portion from Bunyan`s closing words in his introduction to the book. *“In conclusion, let those who do not want to die as Mr. Badman did take heed of Mr. Badman`s ways; for his ways led to his end. Wickedness will not deliver the one that is given to sin, though they cloak it all with a profession of religion. If it was a transgression of old for a man to wear woman`s clothing (Deut. 22:5); surely it is a transgression now for a sinner to wear a Christian profession like a cloak.*

Christian, make your profession shine by a lifestyle that is in accord with the gospel, or else you will bring condemnation on religion, bring scandal to your brethren, and give offence to your enemies. It would be better that a millstone were hung about your neck, and that you, so adorned, were cast into the bottom of the sea.” Jesus references this in **Matthew 18:6**; *“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”*