

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

October 1st, 2017 - Christiana's Progress  
Stage 3 (pages 30-35)

It's time for Christiana, her boys and Mercy to continue on their spiritual journey and the Interpreter, who we studied over the last messages is the Holy Spirit, calls for an angel to help and protect them on their journey and his name is Great-Heart. Their next resting place that they are being escorted to is the Beautiful House which is church, (in Pilgrim's Progress it was called Palace Beautiful).

Christiana asks Great-Heart for a clearer understanding of what pardon means and his reply is this; *"MR. GREAT-HEART "Pardon by the deed done is pardon obtained by someone for another in need of it; not by the person pardoned, but in the way in which it is obtained. So then, to speak to address the question more at large, the pardon that you, and Mercy, and these boys have attained, was obtained by another; that is, by him that let you in at the gate. And he obtained it in this in two ways: he performed righteousness to cover you, and spilt his blood in which to wash you."*

Jesus Christ is the one who pardoned our sins as the prophet Micah says in **Micah 7:18**; *"Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy."* The blood that was shed for you is mentioned in **1 John 1:7** where it says; *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."* There is a conditional word mentioned there, which is 'if' pointing out how you walk with the Lord and we'll elaborate on that in a bit.

The topic of righteousness, or in right standing with God, is deep but yet is easily attainable through faith in Jesus and the blood that he redeemed us with. **2 Corinthians 5:21** says; *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

The Apostle Paul says in **Romans 5:17-21**; *"For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Jesus died so that the righteous requirements of the law could be met in you. In you keeping the 10 Commandments now as a Christian, it's only because of what he did on the cross for you. If you're trying to keep the 10 Commandments by not acknowledging the blood of Jesus, you're not fulfilling the righteous requirement of the law because you don't have Jesus as your Lord - and then all you do becomes dead works.

When Christian (Christiana's husband) came to this understanding at the cross, he cut off the burden of sin and guilt and received the understanding that he was made righteous, no longer seen as a sinner but rather seen as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. This is very important to know and understand because many misinterpret what being righteous means. Even though you may sin as a Christian, you're not a 'sinner', meaning that you've never been saved. Why, because now you're in right standing with God and are righteous. So when you sin, you go to Abba daddy to repent and he forgives you because he sees you as righteous through what Jesus did on the cross for you. As a born again Christian, don't revert back to calling or seeing yourself as a 'sinner', because now you're the righteousness of God IN Christ Jesus. You're a new person in Jesus.

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

Christiana now understands clearly when she goes on to say; *"I thought so; for though my heart was light and joyful before, yet it is ten times more so now. And I am persuaded by what I have felt, though I have felt it little as yet, that if the most burdened man in the world were here, and saw and believed as I do now, it would make his heart all the more merry and blithe."*

Who then do we see as enemies of the cross? The script continues saying this; *"Now, I saw in my dream that they went on until they came to the place where Simple and Sloth and Presumption lay and slept in, when Christian went by on his pilgrimage: and behold, they were hanged up in irons a little way off on the other side. Then Mercy asked him who was their guide and conductor,*

*MERCY. "What are these three men; and for what are they hanged up there?"*

*MR. GREAT-HEART. "These three men were men of very bad qualities; they had no mind to be pilgrims themselves, and whoever they could, they hindered. They were sloth and folly themselves, and whoever they could persuade, they made them so too, and taught them to presume that they would do well at last. They were asleep when Christian went by; but now you go by, you see them hanged."*

Judgment day came for these three individuals who were a snare to any who would want to serve Jesus. Their day of reckoning came with their maker. We read this in **2 Peter 3:2-4** where the Apostle Peter says; *"That you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*

How often do you hear this today, or maybe you mock those who talk about the rapture of the body of Christ. That's what these three did - they were scoffers at the gospel and those who put their trust in Jesus.

Notice that it's on the way to a place of rest at the Palace Beautiful (Church) that they encounter understanding of the forgiveness of sins at the cross of Christ. But these scoffers of Christianity; Simple, Sloth, Presumption, Short-Wind, No-Heart, Linger-After-Lust, and Sleepy-Head, and with a young woman whose name was Dull, try to turn Christians out of the way to become like themselves. Also, the dangerous paths of Formality and Hypocrisy which many take instead of the Hill of Difficulty and the dirty drinking water caused by the feet of the envious. All this happens on their way to church the place of Rest.

Do you see yourself in any of these characters or have you been snared by such ones? In your daily walk with Christ, take a look to see who or what demonic attack wants to divert you from church and the fellowship of the saints to receive the rest of God.

**Hebrews 4:1-10** talks about the promise of rest that God has for you, the Christian. *"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest." Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His."*

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

This is the rest we have as a Christian, not just the Sabbath day or Sunday which we set apart to rest from our labours. It's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It's a spiritual rest we can only find in Christ Jesus that is available all the time to you as a Christian. Rest, peace, the assurance of salvation, that you've been made righteous are some of fruit of that rest as you're not striving anymore as those who were under the law. You're resting on what Jesus did on the cross when he died for our sins and you're not relying only on your good works any longer.

Jesus says this in **Matthew 11:28**; "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" So examine your week and see where you've been effected by scoffers of your Christian Faith, or the temptation to take the path of the Religious or secular Formality and Hypocrisy, instead of the Hill of Difficulty, a crucified life of self denial for the sake of Christ. Where have you allowed envy to pollute your drinking from the water of life found in Christ? Examine yourselves to see where you have become a person dull of heart, lingering after lust, a sleepy head in spirit, or just simply no heart at all for the things of the Lord anymore.

You can be righteous and enter into the rest that Christ has for you, but if you live and continue in what has just been mentioned in these characters, you can come fall short of all He has for you. Every day you have to make decisions to apply what Jesus has done for you. That's what having the righteous requirements of the law being met in us means. Choosing to do and apply all that Jesus has done for you. You're not beyond being tempted, but Jesus said that no temptation would come to you which you wouldn't be able to resist.

**1 Peter 5:8** says; "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*" Even though you're the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, the devil is still prowling around, seeking ways to devour you.

**2 Corinthians 13:4-6** says; "*For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you. Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.*"

The Christian walk has conditions in it even though you've been made righteous. There should be honesty in our person to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law every day. It would almost seem hypocritical of God to allow you into heaven after bestowing all of Jesus' righteousness on you, yet you've gone on to live the very opposite of a righteous life, to live like the devil, wouldn't it.

The Apostle Paul makes this clear in **Colossians 3:1-11** where he says; "*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.*"

Titus talks about the qualities of a sound church, or sound Christians in **Titus 2:1-8**; "*But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to*

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

*much wine, teachers of good things— that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you."*

The church is a place that is full of people that are the righteous who have righteous works that follow them. The greatest hindrances to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives are our own habits, traditions, formalities, etc. I am convinced that the number one hindrance to your walk with God and Church attendance is yourself. You've developed daily routine that hinders the Holy Spirit's work. That's why Jesus said in **Matthew 16:24**; *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."*

Instead of us evolving around the work of the Holy Spirit, we expect the Holy Spirit to evolve around our works of the flesh, (routines, habits, formalities) which ultimately leads to grieving of the Holy Spirit. We erroneously expect him to move at our beckon call, when, where and how. But that's now how Holy Spirit works. Jesus said that when we follow him, we're to take up our cross and die to self. Whatever Jesus is telling you to drop, die to or give up, do it. Allow the Holy Spirit to interrupt your schedule, he wants lordship, not to be controlled. The Holy Spirit wants ALL OF YOU!

**Ephesians 4:30** says; *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."* Many Christians don't want much to do with the Holy Spirit because it will require a shift and change in their lives so that he can move as he knows what you need. So then you have to ask...who's really Lord of that person's life if the Holy Spirit isn't?

Jesus rebuked his disciples in **Matthew 6:25-34** because of their worrying and lack of faith. It says; *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."*

That's the priority shift that Jesus requires of us. Seek HIS kingdom, live righteously, and everything else will be taken care of.

**1 Corinthians 3:9-15** says; *"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If*

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

*anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."*

Your works and daily routines in life, if they're not led by the Holy Spirit and are just a work of the flesh, they will go up in smoke on judgment day, according to what we just read. The only thing that will stand the test of the Lord's fire, are the things that you've done for the Lord and the things that the Holy Spirit has directed you in. I'd encourage you to look at your schedules, agendas, day timers, spare time etc., and see if what you're doing, is in God's plan for your life or is it idle and wasteful. You're giving Jesus your career, your job, your family, your marriage, your ministry and asking Holy Spirit to take lordship of it all. I don't know about you, but I don't want to have my life and what I've done go up in a puff of smoke. I want it to remain. This is the priority shift that has to take place in your life. The foundation is Jesus Christ - what are you using to build on top of him?

The cost of discipleship is talked about in **Luke 9:57-62** where Jesus says; *"Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

So once again, examine your week and see where you've been effected by scoffers of your Christian Faith, or the temptation to take the path of the Religious or secular Formality and Hypocrisy instead of the Hill of Difficulty, walking a crucified life of self denial for the sake of Christ. Where have you allowed envy to pollute your drinking from the water of life found in Christ? Examine yourselves to see where you have become a person dull of heart, lingering after lust, a sleepy head in spirit, or just simply no heart at all for the things of the Lord anymore.