

Here’s a teaser video to watch before you read on! [CLICK TO WATCH.](#)

Isaiah 5:20 says; “*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*” This would summarize Vanity Fair; anything good, wholesome, pure, kind, righteous and holy, is seen as odd, abnormal, weird, peculiar, strange and deviant. Christian and Faithful are so different in their speech (they speak God’s wisdom in a mystery), appearance (they’re clothed with righteousness) and indifference to the goods being sold (as they only sought to purchase truth), that they’re the ones that are seen as evil and wicked, not the other way around! They put their fingers in their ears and cried out “Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity”. Remember Christian did the same thing when he was fleeing the City of Destruction! II Corinthians 4:4 says: “*Among them the god of this world [satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving to prevent them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*” Psalm 119:37 also says; “*Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way.*”

Since the fall of Adam and Eve when sin entered into the world, our adversary the devil has tried to deter and discourage humanity from pressing on to eternal life in the Celestial City. He is the mastermind of every clever trap by which anyone can be permanently held captive causing them to lose hope of the straight and narrow path, the King’s Highway. This Town of Vanity is the synopsis or culmination of the different people Christian and Faithful have encountered so far, like Talkative, Mr. Worldly-Wiseman and Madam Wanton. The reality is that this Town is the City of Destruction from which they both had fled. But now they are mature Christians and their eyes have been opened to the truth, they’re running the race having laid aside every weight and sin which could ensnare them. Jesus says in John 17:14-17; “*I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*” One would need to die to be taken out of this world and not face Vanity Fair, in the mean time, we’ve been given the armour of God to stand and fight the fight of faith and resist the temptations of the adversary.

Some of the carnal enticements available at Vanity Fair, appeal to the intellectual, sophisticated and open-minded, they offer a short time of pleasure for disciplined believer who is led astray and invites some to indulge in something slightly indecent as they may believe it will not affect their salvation. The list is extensive as we’ve read, some of which may be legitimate, but if indulged in excessively become unlawful; there are items of questionable profit that can be indulged in dishonestly; and lastly there is just blatant debauchery and wickedness which is out rightly prohibited.

We must remember that Jesus also walked through this world – through Vanity Fair. Being the Prince of Princes, the only Son of God, he was tempted by the devil just as we are as [Matthew 4:3-10](#) shows and endured the hostility of sinners. Hebrews 12:2-3 says; “*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*” The same devil who stirred up the Town of Vanity against Christian and Faithful, was the same one who stirred up the angry mob against Jesus crying out “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!” in John 19:15. However, at the cross as he gave himself for us, he conquered all the powers of the devil and has given us the same authority and power. The Apostle Paul, in [I Thessalonians 2:1-12](#) faces similar persecutions and says also in Philippians 3:18; “*For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is their shame – who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Christian and Faithful were met with verbal abuse, violence, loathing sentiment, derision, and beatings after refusing to buy the goods and wares that were being offered. They are put in cages, paraded through the city, treated as sport, beaten, humiliated and ultimately brought to the town judge for trial. All of this, because they were only interested in purchasing truth and knew that they were in transit to the heavenly city and were strangers and aliens on this earth which [Hebrews 11:13-15](#) alludes to. The Apostle Peter also says in I Peter 2:11; “*Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.*” Yet in all of this, they blessed, showed patience in hysteria, showed kindness for malice and did good and not evil. Jesus says in Matthew 5:44; “*But I say to you, love your enemies, bless*

those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” We can’t expect the godless to act any other way as they reflect the characteristics of their father – the devil. But God remains faithful in all that we go through.

At their trial, the perverse indictment was as follows; *“That they (Christian and Faithful) were enemies of, and disturbers of the trading at the Fair; that they had caused both commotions and divisions in the Town, and had gained supporters for their most dangerous opinions, in contempt of the law of their Prince (Beelzebub)”*. The whole affair was perverse from the beginning! The three witnesses, Envy, Superstition and Pickthank were nothing more than ploys to make it seem like a fair trial. I’d like to mention the verse I used at the beginning in Isaiah 5:20 where it says; *“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”* Everything that Christian and Faithful were accused of was the exact opposite of who they were! In his defence, Faithful emphatically defends himself stating that he opposed anything at Vanity Fair that did not align itself with the Word of God.

It’s mind-boggling to have such a descriptive scene as this one that we’ve just read. The world is daily luring and forcing Christians into trials such as this. Whether it is the actual physical persecution to death, or persecution on the job, at school, in sports, in business or a myriad of other scenarios, Christians are seen as the ‘odd man out’. It’s hard to close this review as this chapter needs to be read two or three times to digest the scope of what is happening. But wrapping it up, here are a few questions to ponder;

- Are you a citizen of the Town of Vanity?
- Are you a Christian who has fallen prey to the seductions and allurements of Vanity Fair?
- Do you mock and curse Christians for their faith?
- Do you take pleasure in scorning, ridiculing, de-riding Christians whenever you cross paths?
- Do you condemn, ridicule, poke fun at or smear those who speak the truth?

If so, I’d encourage you to repent and turn to Jesus Christ. His path can offer you so much more on this earth and you’ll have the hope of living eternally in heaven with him. If you’re a Christian, continue to fight the good fight of faith, knowing that you will win as you see the Lord fight your battles. Jesus loves you and the host of heaven is cheering you on!

