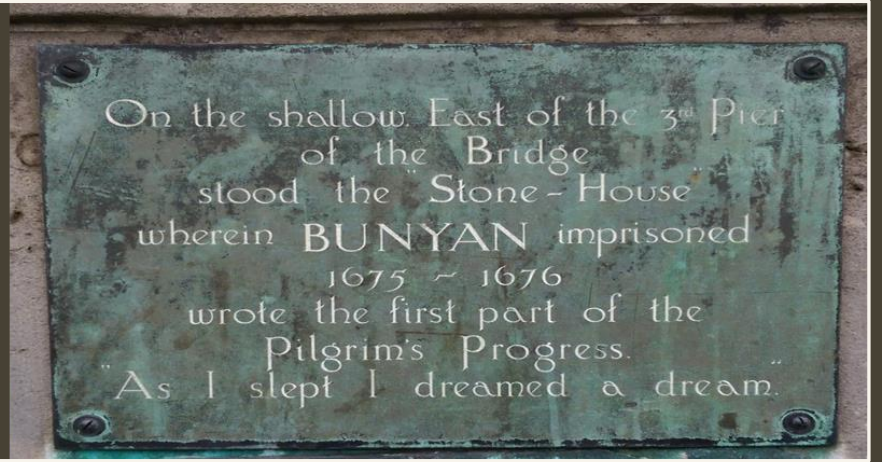
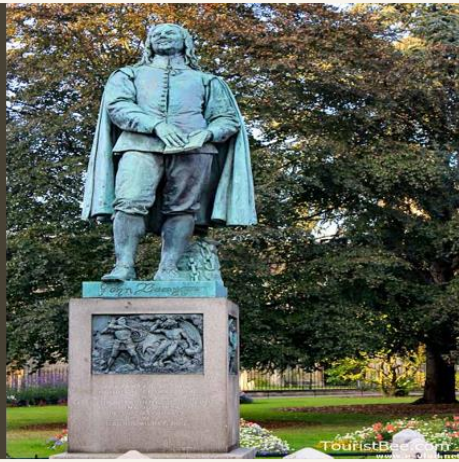


“WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.”
ACTS 14:22



JOHN BUNYAN'S *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH



THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold. **But the one who endures to the end will be saved.**

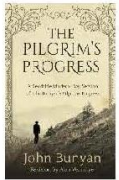
Matthew 24:9-13



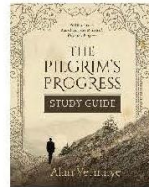


CHRISTIAN & HOPEFUL REACH THE DELECTABLE MOUNTAINS

Study of *The Pilgrim's Progress* Spring 2024



[The Pilgrim's Progress—A Readable Modern-Day Version of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress — Revision by Alan Vermilye](#)
[The Pilgrim's Progress — Study Guide](#)



Session	Date	Pages		Chapter
		Pilgrim's Progress	Study Guide	
1	February 4	13-33	22-31	1
2	February 11	34-55	32-45	2
3	February 18	56-68	46-54	3
4	February 25	69-83	55-63	4
5	March 3	84-97	64-70	5
6	March 10	98-124	71-80	6
7	March 17	125-136	81-85	7
8	March 24	137-152	86-93	8
	March 31	No Class—Easter Sunday		
9	April 7	153-163	94-99	9
10	April 14	164-181	100-108	10
11	April 21	182-214	109-122	11
12	April 28	215-228	123-129	12

Download [Pilgrim's Progress Scripture Reference Guide](#)
Download [The Pilgrim's Progress Study Guide Answer-Guide](#)



THREE SCENES

The Shepherds at the
Delectable Mountains



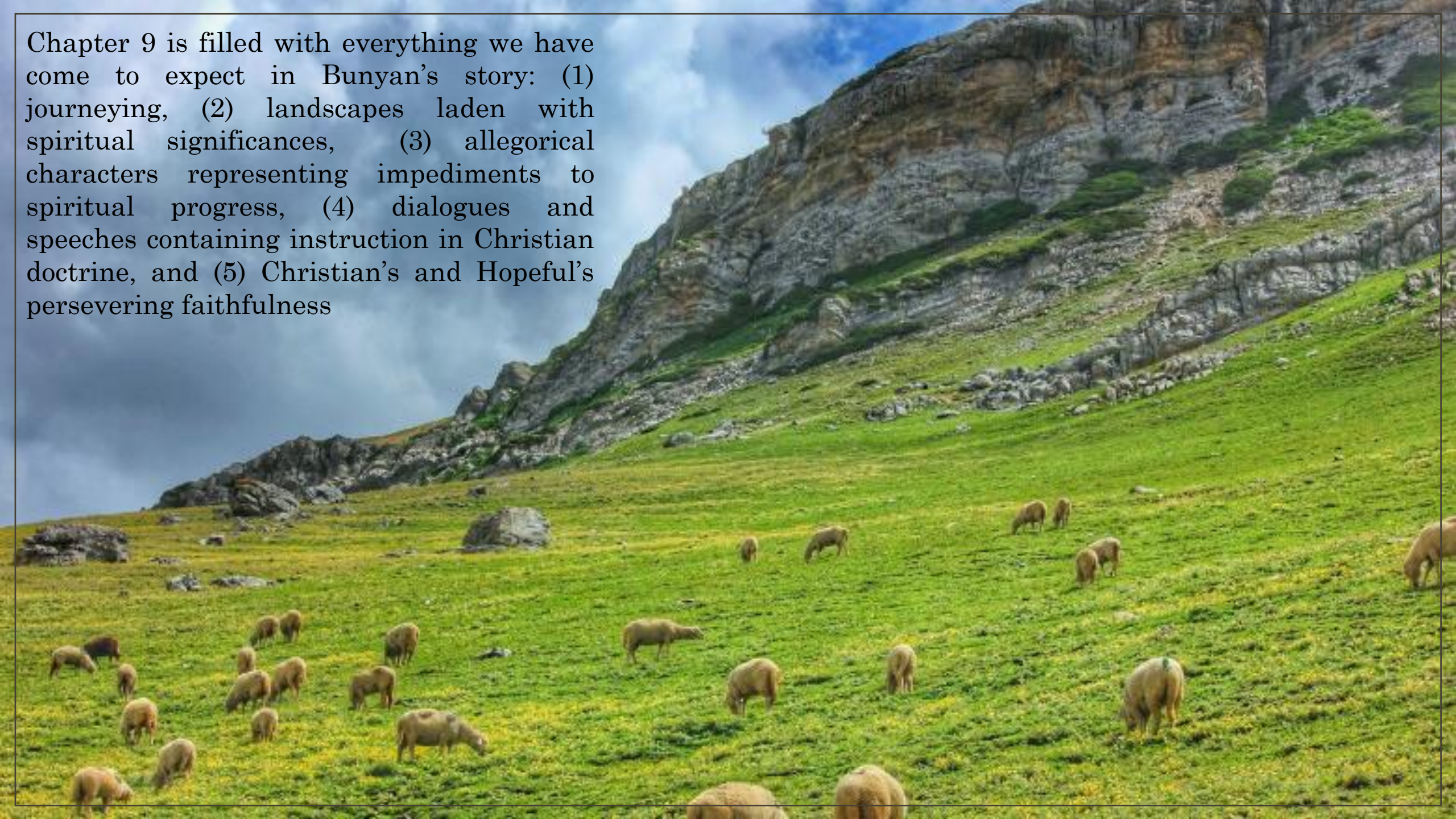
Ignorance



Little-Faith



Chapter 9 is filled with everything we have come to expect in Bunyan's story: (1) journeying, (2) landscapes laden with spiritual significances, (3) allegorical characters representing impediments to spiritual progress, (4) dialogues and speeches containing instruction in Christian doctrine, and (5) Christian's and Hopeful's persevering faithfulness





From the Palace Beautiful, Christian was able to get a glimpse of the Delectable Mountains.

The mountains, which from a distance, looked delectable, now, reveal to Christian and Hopeful how truly delectable they are with gardens, orchards, vineyards, and fountains. They take cool drinks and wash in the pools. They freely eat from the vineyards. After getting refreshed, they climb and come upon four shepherds — Knowledge, Experience, Watchful, and Sincere — who welcome them and invite them to their tents for supper and to spend the night. “These mountains are Immanuel’s Land,” the shepherds explain, “and they are within sight of his city; and the sheep also are his, and he laid down his life for them.”

“Everyone whom the Lord preserves will reach the end safely.”

They’re pleased to know they are still on the King’s Highway. But when Christian asked the distance to the Celestial City, one shepherd answered with a riddle: “Too far for anyone except those who shall arrive there.”

“Is the way safe or dangerous?” also received a riddle-like response: “Safe for those for whom the way is made to be safe, but the transgressors will fall off along the way.”



Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of the LORD are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them (Hosea 14:9).

WHO ARE THE SHEPHERDS?
PASTORS
KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, WATCHFUL & SINCERE



The shepherds inquired concerning (1) from where they came, (2) how they entered the King's Highway, and (3) how they found strength to persevere.

They explained, "Few who begin the journey make it this far."

The four shepherds led them to their tents, where they prepared a meal for them and hosted them for the night.

In the morning, they took the pilgrims to walk with them. They took them to the top of the steep hill, Error. Looking down, they could see the remains of people dashed to pieces. The shepherds pointed out some of them, especially Hymenaeus and Philetus who denied the resurrection of the body.

They took them to another mountain top called Caution. They could see into the distance people stumbling about among tombs. Christian asked, "What does this mean?"

They explained about a stile that leads to By-Path meadow right by Doubting Castle kept by Giant Despair. Those are the Giant's captives whose eyes he put out, so as the proverb is fulfilled, "Whoever strays from the path of prudence comes to rest in the company of the dead" (Prov. 21:16).

They showed a door in the side of the hill in a ravine, another way to eternal perdition for hypocrites—Esau, Judas, Alexander, Ananias, and Sapphira.

Some appear to be Christians for a long time only to apostatize from the pathway and end up in perdition.

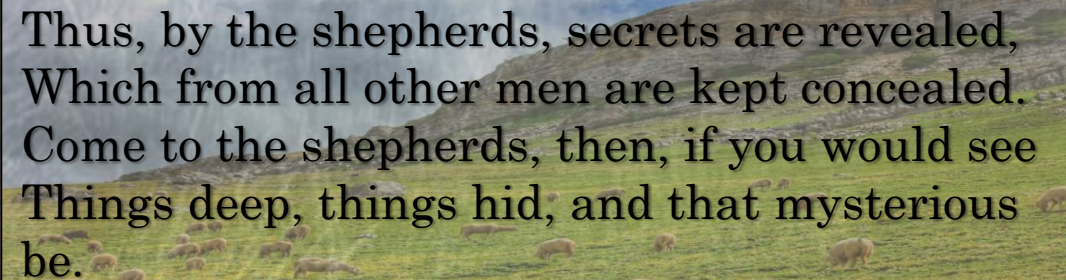
Finally, the shepherds took them to the top of the hill called Clear to give the two pilgrims a glimpse of the Celestial City through their telescope.

Knowledge gave them a map.

Experience warned against Flatterer.

Watchful warned them not to sleep on the Enchanted Ground.

Sincere blessed them for the remainder of their journey.



Thus, by the shepherds, secrets are revealed,
Which from all other men are kept concealed.
Come to the shepherds, then, if you would see
Things deep, things hid, and that mysterious
be.



Christian and Hopeful encounter Ignorance, a man from the country of Conceit.

- Ignorance, the opposite of knowledge.
- Conceit, the opposite of humility.

Different kinds of ignorance. Which does Bunyan have in view here?

- All-pervasive ignorance?
- Inexperienced ignorance?
- Dull-minded ignorance?
- **A deliberate and willful ignorance?**

After a brief conversation with Ignorance, Christian recognized the man as “wise in his own conceit.”

- He claims to be bound for the Celestial City.
- He did not enter the Way through the Wicket Gate.
- He believes the Celestial Gate will be opened for him because “I pray, fast, pay tithes, and give alms.”
- Christian and Hopeful argue that the Wicket Gate is the only entry to the Way.
- Ignorance rebuffs them: “Be content to follow the religion of your country, and I will follow the religion of mine. I hope all will be well.”

Christian and Hopeful decided it was best not to engage in any further conversation with Ignorance. So they walked ahead, leaving him behind to walk by himself, which he preferred. This is not the last of Ignorance for Christian and Hopeful. They will encounter him again near the end of their pilgrimage.



IGNORANCE



As Christian and Hopeful continue walking, they enter a dark lane. There they see a man who is bound with seven strong cords. Seven demons were carrying the man back to that door in the hillside the shepherds showed Christian and Hopeful.

Christian recognized the man as “one Turn-away, who lived in the town of Apostasy.”

Hopeful noticed a paper on the man’s back with an inscription: “Malicious professor and damnable apostate.”

- Dark lane—represents a poor unenlightened soul.
- Turn-Away—a nominal “Christian.” When his exterior religiosity and piety are stripped away, he is nothing but a masked apostate, ungodly, and disloyal to the gospel he professes.
- Fickleness and abandonment—represent not loss of true gospel conviction but that such conviction was never present.

For Christian, this recalls being told of someone named Little-Faith. He fell asleep in Dead Man’s Lane, not far from this dark lane, when he was beaten and robbed by the three brothers, all rogues—Faintheart, Mistrust, and Guilt. They took all his money but not his certificate for entering the Celestial Gates. He was reduced to become a beggar for the remainder of his journey to the Celestial City.

This incident prompts Christian to deliver a profound sermon to his companion, Hopeful. He speaks at length about the importance of maintaining faith in the face of adversity on the journey to the Celestial City. He emphasizes that faith is not a cleverness that encounters no obstacles but a strength that enables one endure them.

Little-Faith frequently would forget he possessed the certificate and would “swallow up hope and reason.” He lacked assurance, hence his name, Little-Faith.



NEXT WEEK
CHRISTIAN &
HOPEFUL ENCOUNTER
THE SNARE OF THE
FLATTERER, ATHEIST, &
IGNORANCE, AGAIN



CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH

