

“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

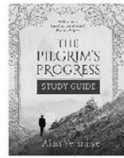




## Study of *The Pilgrim's Progress* Spring 2024



*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
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<a href="#">Download <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> Scripture Reference Guide</a> <a href="#">Download <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> Study Guide Answer-Guide</a>				

## CHRISTIAN ARRIVES AT THE WICKET GATE



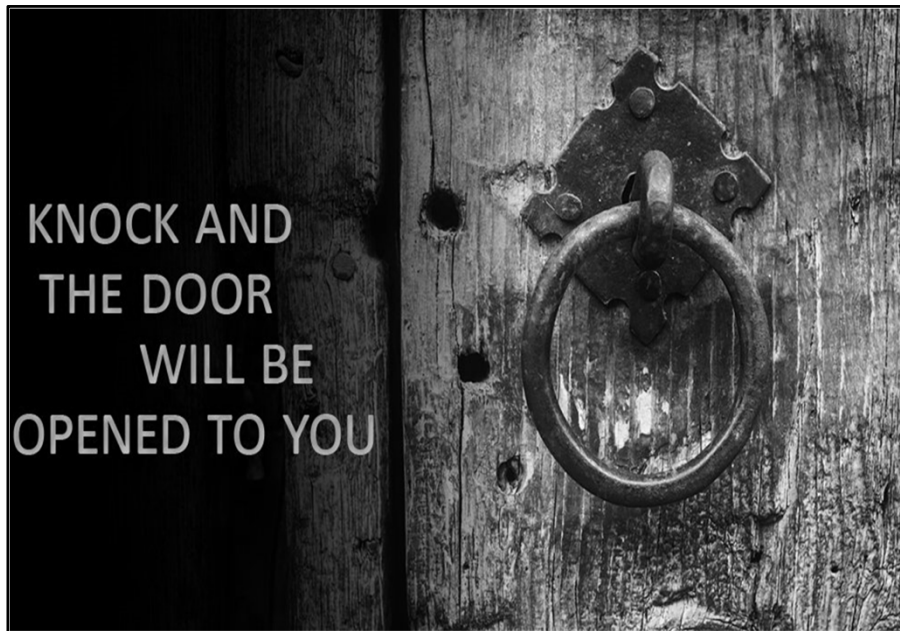
## THE VISIT TO THE INTERPRETER'S HOUSE



“MAY I NOW ENTER? WILL HE WITHIN OPEN TO PITIFUL ME, THOUGH I HAVE BEEN AN UNDESERVING REBEL? THEN WILL I NOT FAIL TO SING HIS LASTING PRAISE ON HIGH.”







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OPEN TO PITIFUL ME, THOUGH I HAVE BEEN  
AN UNDESERVING REBEL? THEN WILL I NOT  
FAIL TO SING HIS LASTING PRAISE ON HIGH.”

Mr. Good-Will tells Christian, “A little distance from this gate, there stands a strong castle, of which Beelzebub is the captain. From there, both he and those who are with him shoot arrows at travelers who come up to this gate in order to slay poor sinners before they can enter into safety.”



Mr. Good-Will tells Christian, “An open door is set before you, and no man can shut it. . . . Did anyone follow you to persuade you to return to the City of Destruction?”

Christian, “Yes, Pliable traveled with me to the Swamp of Despair. He became discouraged and turned back.”

Mr. Good-Will, “Poor Pliable! Is the Celestial Glory of so little value to him that he considers it unworthy of his hazarding a few difficulties to obtain it?”

Christian, “I have told you the truth about Pliable, now I must tell you the truth about myself. I am no better than Pliable. It is true that he went back to his own house, but I also turned aside to go into the way of death, being persuaded to do so by the seductive arguments of Mr. Worldly Wiseman.”





Mr. Good-Will tells Christian, “I will teach you about the way you must go. It is the King’s Highway carved out by the patriarchs, prophets, Christ, and His apostles, and it is as straight as a ruler can make it. This is the way you must go. . . . Many other ways exist, but they are all crooked and wide. That is how you can distinguish the right way from the wrong. The right way is always straight and narrow.”

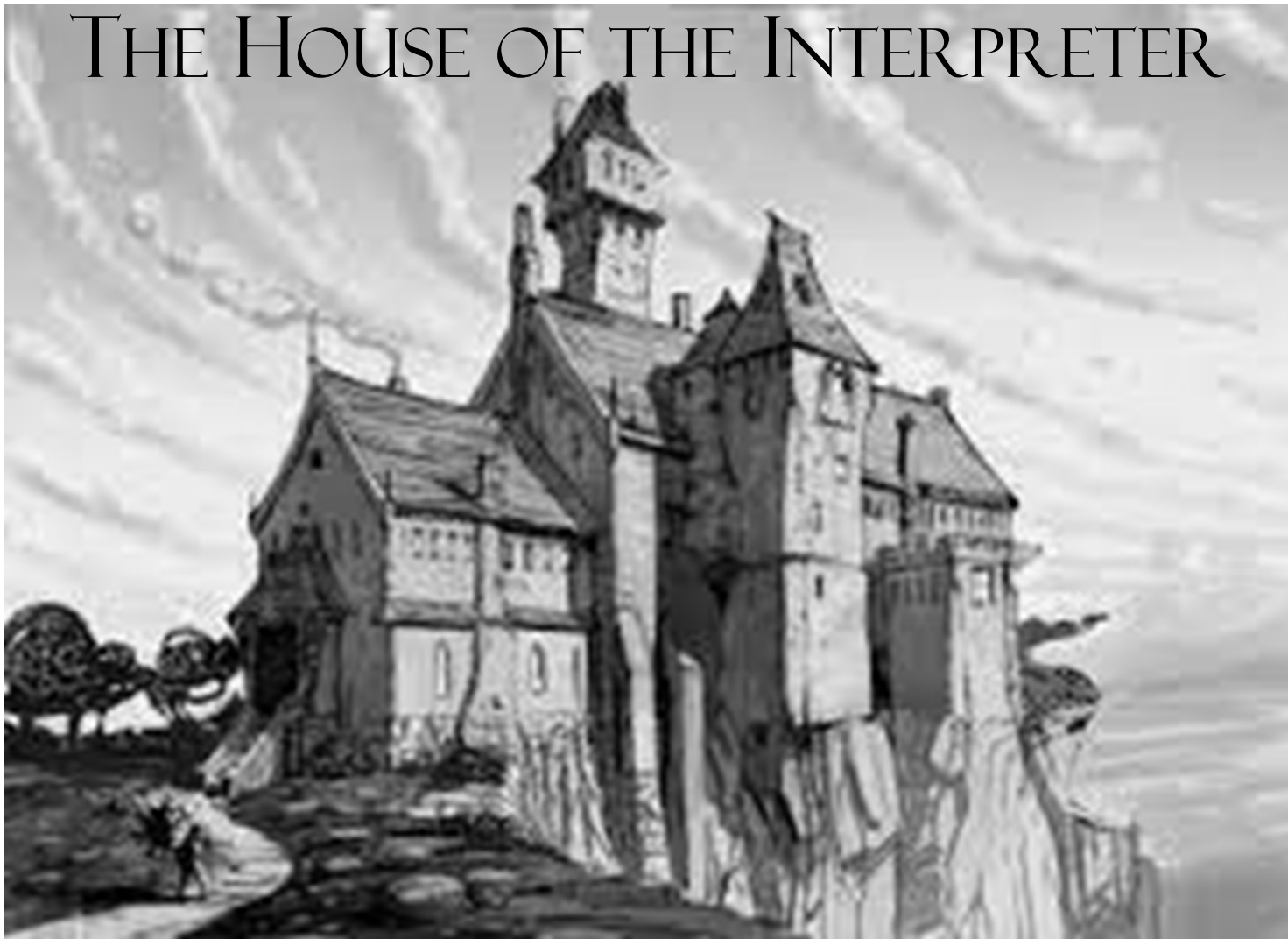


“THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT TO A MAN, BUT ITS END IS THE WAY TO DEATH” (PROV. 14:12; 16:25)

Mr. Good-Will tells Christian, “As for your burden, be content to bear it until you come to the place of deliverance; once you are there, it will fall from your back by itself.”

Then Mr. Good-Will directed Christian to the House of the Interpreter where he would be shown many excellent things.

# THE HOUSE OF THE INTERPRETER



# SEVEN ROOMS



Portrait of  
the Preacher

The Dusty  
Room

Passion &  
Patience

The Roaring  
Fire

The Palace

The Caged  
Man

Unprepared  
Dreamer

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



## THE HOUSE OF THE INTERPRETER



## In Bunyan's Allegory, What Does the Interpreter Represent?

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” (John 15:26).

Therefore, do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord (Eph. 5:7-10).



## PORTRAIT OF THE PREACHER



1<sup>ST</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

The Interpreter explains, "The man you see in this picture is one in a thousand. He can produce children, labor in birth pains, and nurse them himself when they are born. And do you see his eyes looking to heaven, the Bible in his hands, and the law of truth on his lips?"

"This is to show you that his works is to know and expose dark things to sinners, even as you see him standing there pleading with men."

"And where you see the world behind him and the crown that hangs over his head, that's to show you that he despises the things of this world for the love that he has for doing God's work. He will surely receive his reward in glory."

## PORTRAIT OF THE PREACHER



1<sup>ST</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

- \_\_\_ His eyes are heavenward
  - \_\_\_ He speaks the law of truth
  - \_\_\_ The world is behind him
  - \_\_\_ Pleads, "Be reconciled to God."
  - \_\_\_ A gold crown is over his head
  - \_\_\_ He can produce children
  - \_\_\_ He nourishes those children
  - \_\_\_ He preaches the truth
- A 2 Timothy 4:7-8
  - B Titus 1:9
  - C 1 Corinthians 4:15
  - D Ephesians 4:11-13
  - E Colossians 3:2
  - F Romans 12:2
  - G 2 Corinthians 5:20
  - H Ephesians 4:25

## PORTRAIT OF THE PREACHER



1<sup>ST</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

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## PORTRAIT OF THE PREACHER



### 1<sup>ST</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

#### **Romans 10:14-17**

How, then, will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

#### **2 Peter 2:1-3**

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them, the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed, they will exploit you with false words.

#### **Galatians 4:19**

My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

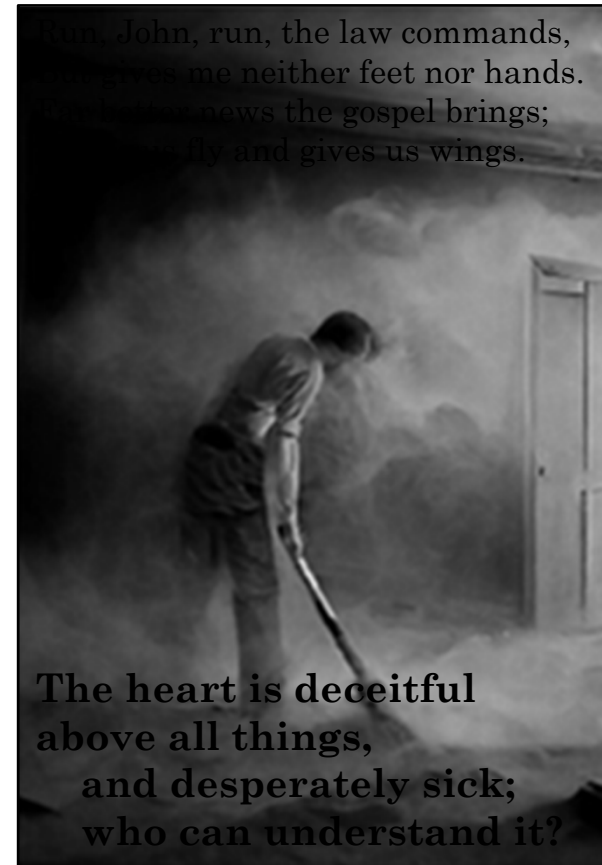
Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing (2 Tim. 4:8).

The Interpreter explains, “The parlor is the heart of a man that was never declared holy by the sweet grace of the Gospel. The dust is his original sin and inward corruption that have defiled the whole man. The man with the broom is the law, but the gracious young lady who brought water and sprinkled the room is the Gospel.”

“As the man with the broom began to sweep, the dust filled the room; it became more difficult to clean, and you almost choked to death. This is to show how the law, instead of cleansing the heart from sin, revives sin, giving it strength to grow and develop in the soul. You can see that the law can both discover and condemn sin, but it has no power to control it.”

As the sprinkled water settles the dust and cleanses the floor, the gospel subdues and cleanses the heart, making it obedient to the King of Glory.

## THE DUSTY ROOM



2<sup>ND</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

## PASSION & PATIENCE

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Matthew 25:34



3<sup>RD</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

Two children sitting on chairs. The older is named Passion, and the younger is Patience.

Christian wonders, “What is the reason for Passion’s discontentment?”

Interpreter explains, “The guardian of these children would have them wait for their best things until the beginning of next year. Passion wants it all now, but Patience is willing to wait.”

With biblical justification, Vermilye edits “best things” as “inheritance.”

Do not love the world or the things in the world (1 John 2:15).

## PASSION & PATIENCE

Luke 16:25

“Child, remember that you received your good things in your lifetime, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.”

2 Corinthians 4:18

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

3<sup>RD</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

Someone brought to Passion a bag of treasure and emptied it at Passion's feet. Passion reveled in the treasure while mocking Patience. Quickly, his treasure dissipated. He was left with rags.

Christian wonders what he has just witnessed.

Interpreter explains, “These two lads are figures. Passion represents people of this Present Age; Patience represents the people of the Age to Come. People characterized by Passion want all their good things now, in this Present Age. They cannot wait to receive their inheritance in the Age to Come. The proverb—“A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”—holds more authority with them than all the treasure of heaven. This is how it will be with all people like Passion at the end of this age.”

Christian comprehends, “I understand now that Patience is the wise of the two for a couple of reasons: first, that because he is willing to wait for his inheritance and, secondly, because he will have the glory of his inheritance when Passion has nothing but rags.”

Do not love the world or the things in the world (1 John 2:15).

Then Interpreter took Christian by the hand and led him to a room with a large fireplace. The blazing fire grew larger and hotter even though a man was continually throwing buckets full of water on it to quench it.

Christian inquired, "What does this mean?"

Interpreter explained, "The fire is the work of grace God ignites in the heart. The man who pours water on the flames, trying to extinguish the fire, is the Devil. Yet, the flames burn higher and hotter. I will show you the reason for this."

So, Interpreter brought Christian to the back side of the wall, where a man was continually pouring oil onto the fire.

Christian asked, "Who is that and what does it mean?"

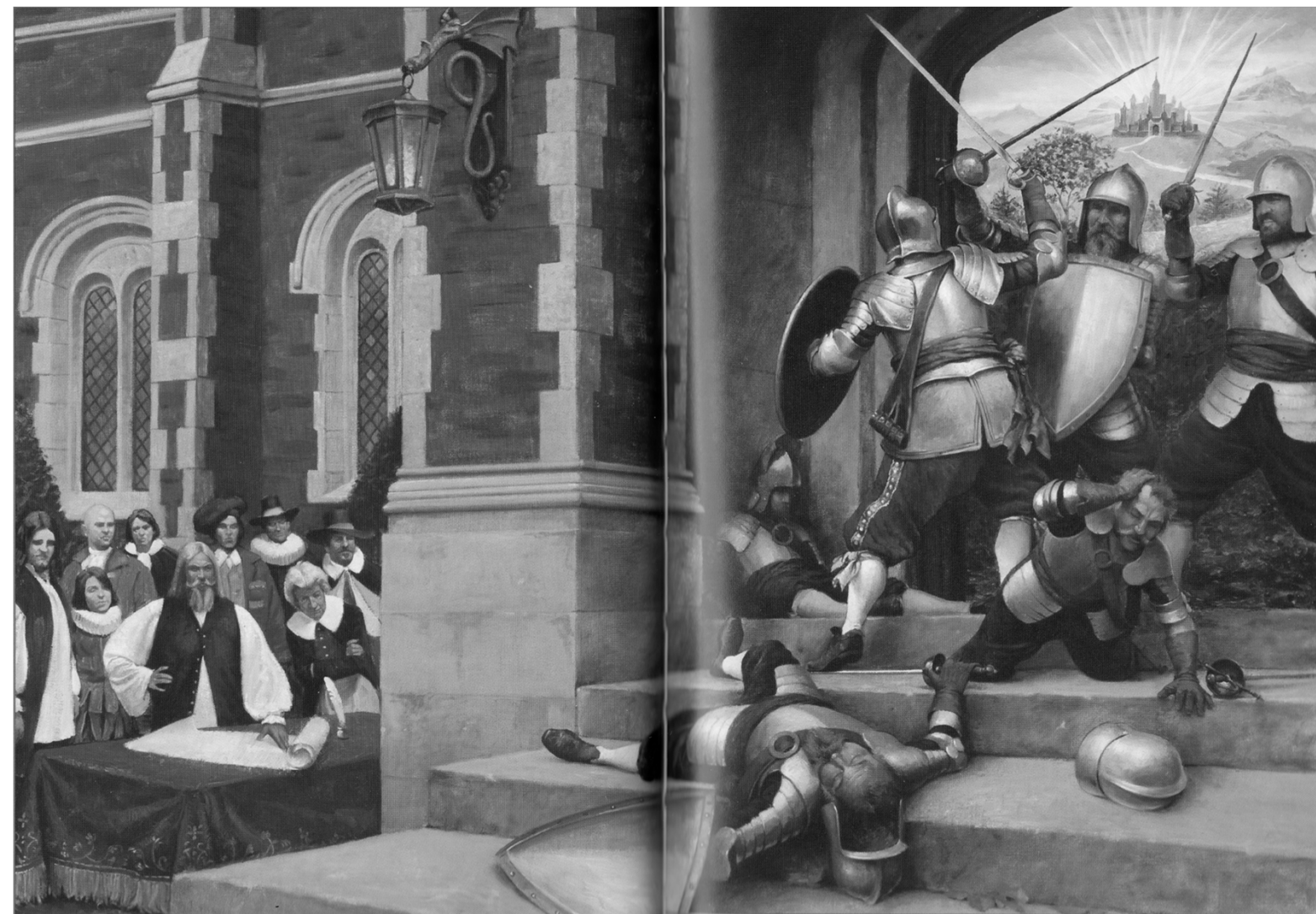
"This is Christ who, with the oil of grace, sustains his work already begun in the heart. Christ's gracious work in the heart repels the Devil's efforts. This teaches you that Christ's work or grace exceeds your understanding."

## ROARING FIRE



## 4<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).



Interpreter is pleased that Christian correctly understands the truths represented by what he sees at the grand palace.

But he is not yet ready to release Christian on his journey. He has more to show him.

“Stay until I have shown you a little more, and after that, you can go on your way.”

5<sup>th</sup> Room, The Stately Palace

## THE STATELY PALACE



### Interpretation

- ❖ Who are those clothed in gold?
- ❖ Who are those too timid to enter?
- ❖ What contemporary issues restrain people from entering?
- ❖ “Friendship with the world is hatred toward God” (James 4:4).

- ❖ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24).
- ❖ “Continue in the faith. It is through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).
- ❖ “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ, you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake” (Phil. 1:29).
- ❖ “From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matt. 11:22).
- ❖ “Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day. . . Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:13, 17).

MANY ALLUSIONS TO SCRIPTURE

Interpreter took Christian into a dark room with a man confined in an iron cage. His body showed he was extremely sad—his face, folded hands, and his sighing.

Instead of answering Christian's question about the man's identity, Interpreter encouraged him to speak with the man.

***“Who are you?” Christian inquired.***

“I am not what I once was. I was active and flourishing in my profession of faith, both in my own eyes and the eyes of others. Formerly, I was thought worthy of the Celestial City and was full of joy at the thought of arriving there.”

“I am now a man of despair, which constrains me like this cage. I cannot get out. O, now I cannot escape.”

“I stopped being watchful and diligent. I pursued my own lusts. I sinned against the light of the Word and God's goodness. I grieved the Spirit who departed from me. I tempted the Devil who came to me. I provoked God to anger, and he has left me. I have hardened my heart that I can no longer repent.”

***Christian asks, “Is there no hope? Must you be kept in the iron cage of despair?”***

## THE CAGED MAN



6<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE



## THE CAGED MAN



6<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

"I have crucified Christ to myself afresh. I have despised his person. I have despised his righteousness. I have 'counted his blood an unholy thing.' I have 'insulted the Spirit of grace.' Therefore, I have shut myself out of all the promises, and there now remains to me nothing but dreadful and fearful threatenings of certain judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour me as an adversary."

*Concerned, Christian asks, "How did you bring yourself into this pitiful condition?"*

"I promised myself much delight from the lusts, pleasures, and profits of this world. But now every one of those things wounds me and gnaws at me like a burning worm."

*"But can't you now repent and forsake those things?" Christian inquires.*

No. God has denied me repentance. His Word gives me no encouragement to believe. He has shut me up in this iron cage, and all the men in the world do not have the power to let me out. O eternity! Eternity! How will I deal with the misery that waits for me in eternity?"

**Christian took to his heart Interpreter's warning: "Remember this man's misery, and let it be an everlasting caution to you."**

“And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while and fall away in time of testing” (Luke 8:13).

“It is impossible for those . . . who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance because they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt” (Hebrews 6:6).

“Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:28-29).

## THE CAGED MAN



6<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

## THE CAGED MAN



6<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

The preacher who wrote Hebrews assures his readers that when God made his promise to Abraham, he swore an oath to show the heirs of the promise the “unchangeable character of his purpose” (6:17). We who are Abraham’s heirs have God’s promise and oath to assure us that his promised salvation is our sure hope—a “sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (6:19).

The preacher expects us to take to heart both the urgent warning against a final departure from Christ (6:4–8) and the admonition to embrace assured confidence in God’s promise (6:9–20) without any whisper of contradiction. He doesn’t admonish us to doubt the inheritance that God assures us by his sworn oath and promise. God regularly uses warnings and consolations or threats and promises *together* to secure us in the way of salvation.

May we heed the sincere, urgent, and inviolable warning of Hebrews 6:4–8, so that we may be saved by divine grace on the last day.

**Does Hebrews 6 Teach You Can Lose Your Salvation?**

## THE TREMBLING DREAMER



7<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

Christian wonders why the man getting out of bed is shaking and trembling as he dresses himself.

“This night, as I was sleeping, I dreamed and witnessed the heavens grow pitch-black. I also heard and saw the most terrible thunder and lightning. So, I looked up in my dream and saw the clouds begin to roll in at an unusual rate of speed.

“Then I heard the great sound of a trumpet and saw a man sitting on a great cloud, attended by thousands from Heaven. They were all clothed in flaming fire, and the heavens were as a burning flame. I then heard a voice saying, ‘Arise, you that are dead, and come to judgment.’ With that, the rocks split, the graves opened, and the dead who were in them came out. Some were extremely glad and looked upward; some hid under the mountains out of fright.

“Then I saw the Man sitting on the cloud opening a book and inviting the world to come near. A fierce flame surrounding him kept the people at a distance like a railing between a judge and a prisoner on trial.”

## THE TREMBLING DREAMER



7<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

The Trembling Dreamer continues, "I heard the Man who sat on the cloud proclaim to his angels, 'Gather the tares, chaff, and stubble, and cast them into the burning lake.' And right where I was standing, the bottomless pit opened. It spewed smoke and coals of fire, along with hideous noises.

"Then the Man on the cloud told the angels, 'Gather my wheat into my barn.' Immediately, I saw numerous living bodies rising up to the clouds, but I was left behind. I tried to hide but failed. The Man on the cloud kept his gaze on me. My sins plagued my mind, mercilessly accusing my conscience. Then I suddenly woke."

*Christian asks, "What of all you saw terrified you?"*

"I thought the Day of Judgment had arrived, and I was unprepared for it. Most terrifying was the angels' gathering others and leaving me behind. Also, the pit of Hell yawned open before me. My conscience screamed at me as the Judge kept his eye on me, and I saw his anger and disapproving frown."

Interpreter asks Christian, “Have you considered all these things I have showed you?”

“Yes,” Christian responds, “and what I have seen prompts me to hope and fear.”

Christian received the proper message. So, Interpreter admonishes him, “Hold all these things in your mind continually both to encourage and warn you throughout your journey to the Celestial City.”

Christian begins to prepare for his anticipated journey. When he was ready to depart, Interpreter blessed him, “May the Comforter be with you always to guide you in the way that leads to the City.”

So Christian responds with gratitude, “Here I have seen things rare and profitable, things pleasant and dreadful, things to provide steadiness and wisdom to approach the obstacles and tribulations I will encounter on my journey. Thank you for showing me what I need to understand for this journey to Eternal Life.”

## THE TREMBLING DREAMER



7<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

## THE TREMBLING DREAMER



Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment (John 5:28-29).

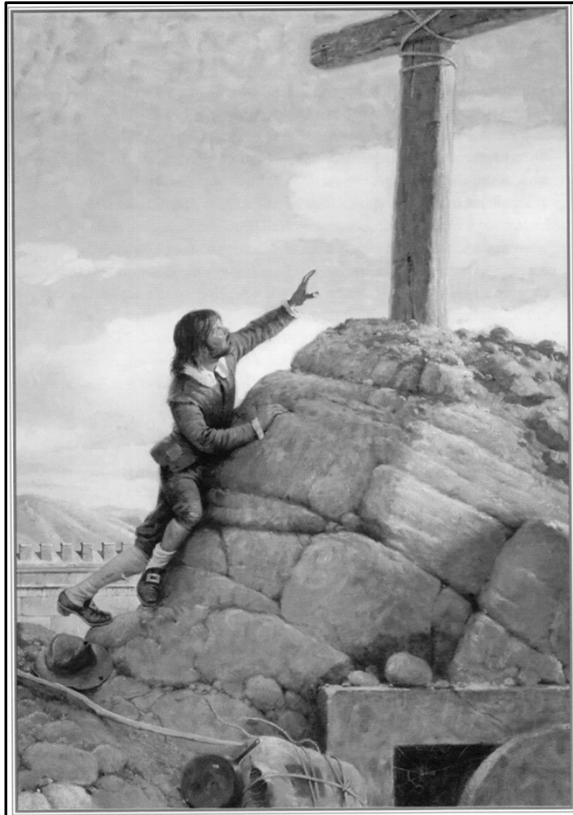
For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints and to be marveled at among all who have believed because our testimony to you was believed (2 Thess. 6-10).

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.



7<sup>TH</sup> ROOM, INTERPRETER'S HOUSE



NEXT WEEK  
CHRISTIAN ARRIVES  
AT THE  
CROSS



CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH

