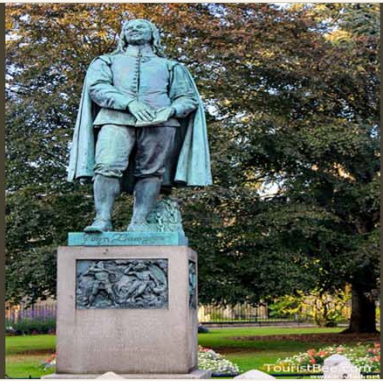


“WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”

ACTS 14:22



JOHN BUNYAN'S *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH



THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

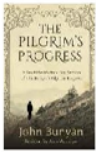
“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the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

Matthew 24:9-13





Study of *The Pilgrim's Progress* Spring 2024



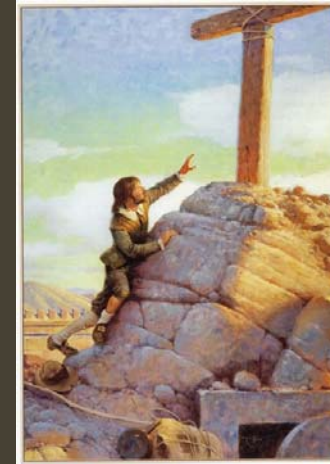
[The Pilgrim's Progress—A Readable Modern-Day Version of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress — Revision by Alan Vermilye](#)
[The Pilgrim's Progress — Study Guide](#)



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](#)

CHRISTIAN ARRIVES AT THE CROSS



IMPOSTORS CHRISTIAN MEETS ON HIS JOURNEY



SEVEN SCENES

Burden Falls
Off At The
Cross

1



The Shining
Angels

2



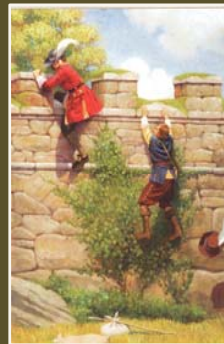
Simple, Sloth
&
Presumption

3



Formalist &
Hypocrisy

4



Climbing
the Hill of
Difficulty

5



Sleeping in
the Arbor

6



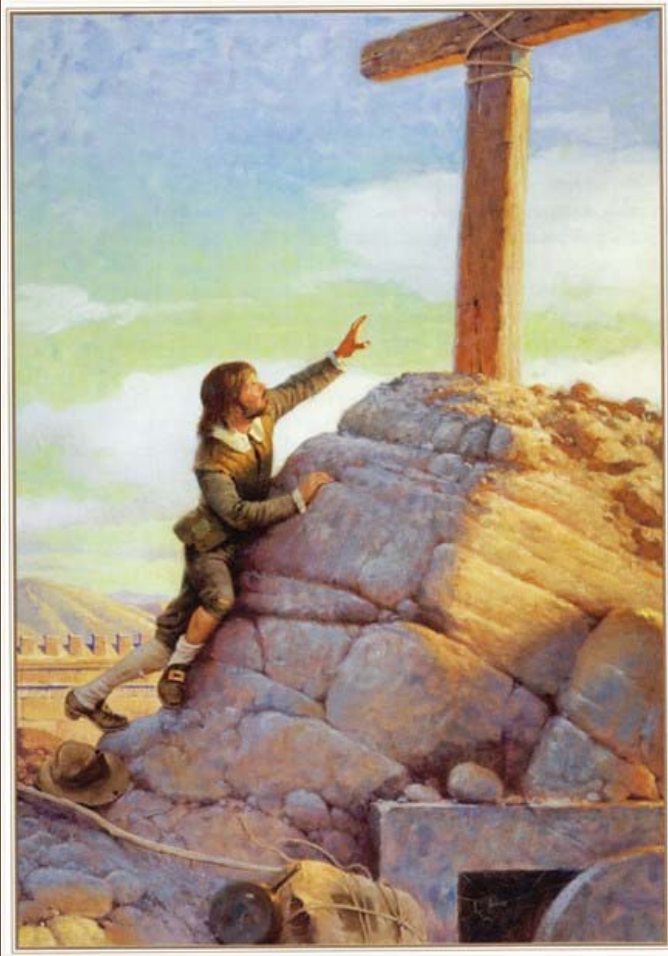
Mistrust &
Timorous

7



CHARACTERS CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTERS





Now I saw in my dream that the highway up from which Christian was to go was walled on each side with the wall called Salvation. Therefore, it was up this highway that Christian ran, but not without great difficulty because of the burden on his back.

He ran till he came to a small hill, at the top of which stood a cross and at the bottom of which was a tomb. I saw in my dream that when Christian walked up the hill to the cross, his burden came loose from his shoulders and fell off his back, tumbling down the hill until it came to the mouth of the tomb, where it fell in never to be seen again.

Relieved, Christian was delighted and exclaimed joyfully, "He has given me rest by His sorrow and life by His death." He stood in wonder that the sight of the cross should ease him of his burden. As he considered the power of the cross, tears streamed down his cheeks.

"We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks (Isaiah 26:1).



THREE SHINING ANGELS APPEAR



- The 1st announced, “Your sins are forgiven.”
- The 2nd stripped off his rags and clothed him with fresh, new garments.
- The 3rd placed a mark on his forehead and handed him a scroll with a seal on it. He instructed Christian to review it frequently throughout his journey and when he arrives at the Celestial City to submit it.

“When they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn” (Zech. 12:10)

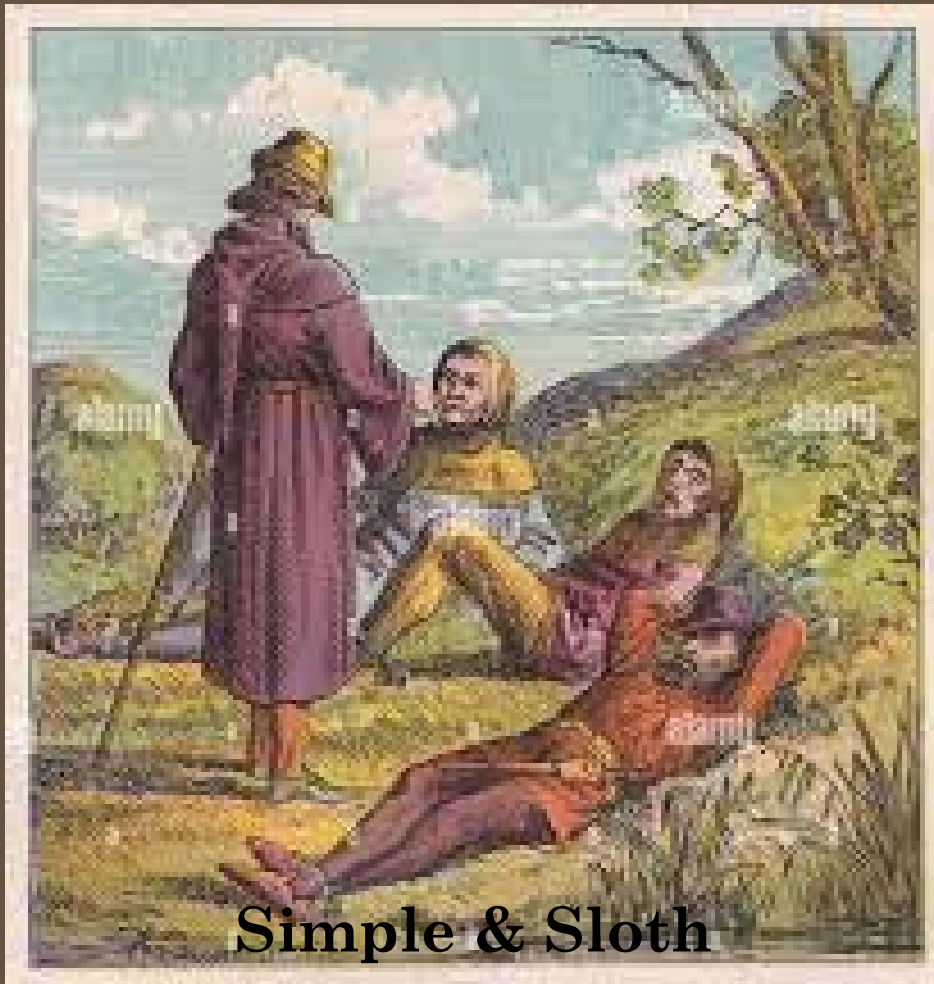
“Son, your sins are forgiven.” (Mark 2:5)

And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments” (Zech. 3:4).

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory (Eph. 1:13-14).



I've traveled so far with my burden of sin,
But no one could ease the grief I was in,
Until I came here! What a place this is!
Is this where I will start being blessed?
Is this where the burden fell off my back?
Is this where the cords that bound it to me broke?
Bless the cross! Bless the tomb! Blessed rather be
The Man who was there put to shame for me.



Simple & Sloth

Joyfully, Christian followed the path along the Way of Salvation until he came upon three men lying beside the path at the bottom of the hill. These men were fast asleep. All had chains on their ankles. One was named Simple, another Sloth (some called him Lazy), and a third Presumption (whom some called Arrogance).

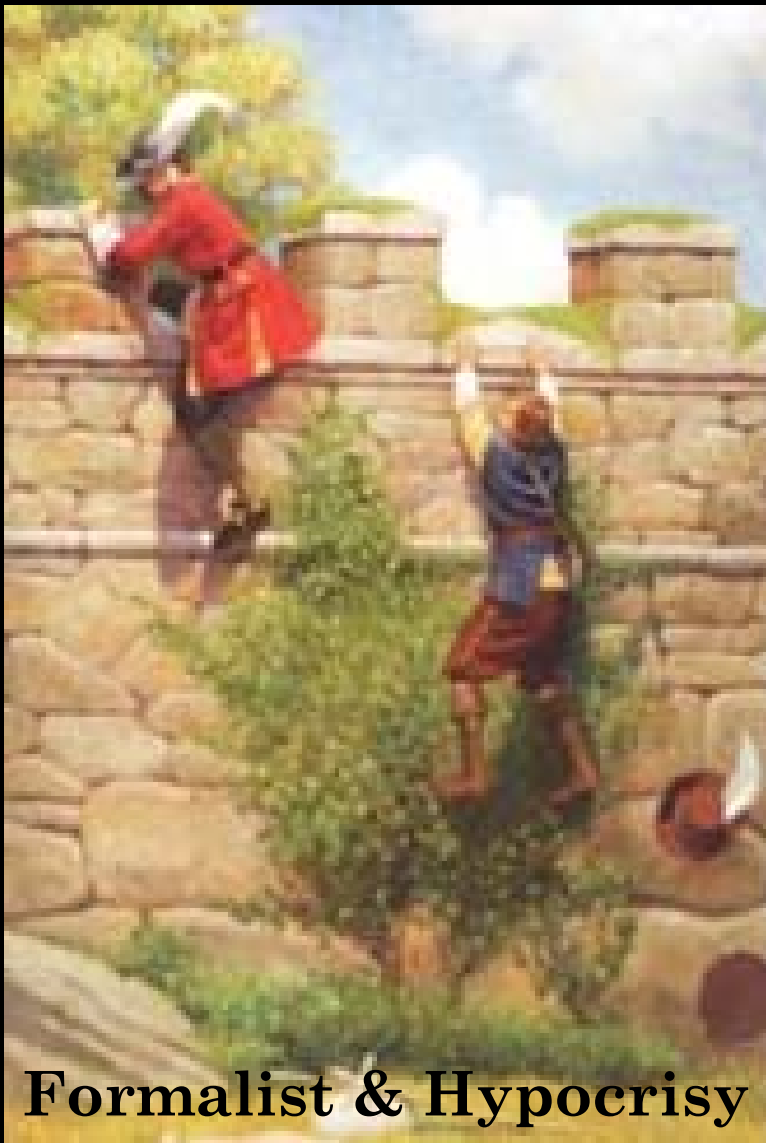
Christian stopped to rouse them from their sleep. “Awake! You behave like men who are about to drown in the deep sea without any awareness of the danger. Arise! Get back on the path. If you are willing, I will assist you by taking off your ankle shackles.”

They didn’t move. Christian appealed again, “If the evil one who prowls about like a roaring lion finds you like this, he will shred you with his teeth and devour you.”

That provoked them to speak. Simple declared, “I see no danger.” Sloth complained, “I need some more sleep.” Presumption grumbled, “Everyone needs to make his own choices. Mind your own business. Don’t meddle in ours.”

So, they all recline for more sleep. Christian, distressed that they would think so little of salvation, wisely went on his way.





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

Formalist & Hypocrisy

As he walked the straight and narrow Way bounded on each side by high walls, he reflected on Simple, Sloth, and Presumption. “How aptly named they are! How foolish they are to think they are safe without taking due diligence and caution,” he thought.

Just then he saw two men tumble down onto the path from the top of the wall on the left side. They spied Christian and came to him. Their names were Formalist and Hypocrisy. He struck up conversation with them, asking, “From where did you come?”

“We come from the land of Vain-Glory and are heading to Mount Zion where we expect to receive praise and honor.”

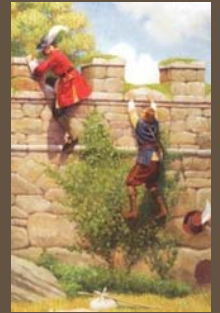
Christian wondered, “Why did you not enter by the Wicket Gate at the entrance to the Way? Don’t you know it is written, ‘He who does not by the door but climbs in by another way is a thief and a robber.’”

They explained, “We and all our countrymen agree that the Wicket Gate is too far out of the way. We prefer this shortcut. Besides, it’s easier and more direct.”

Christian appealed, “But isn’t this trespassing? Surely, the Lord of the Celestial City will consider this a clear violation of his revealed will.”

The two men smiled, “Fret not! Climbing over the wall is a longstanding tradition of folks from our region. It’s the path everyone takes.”

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



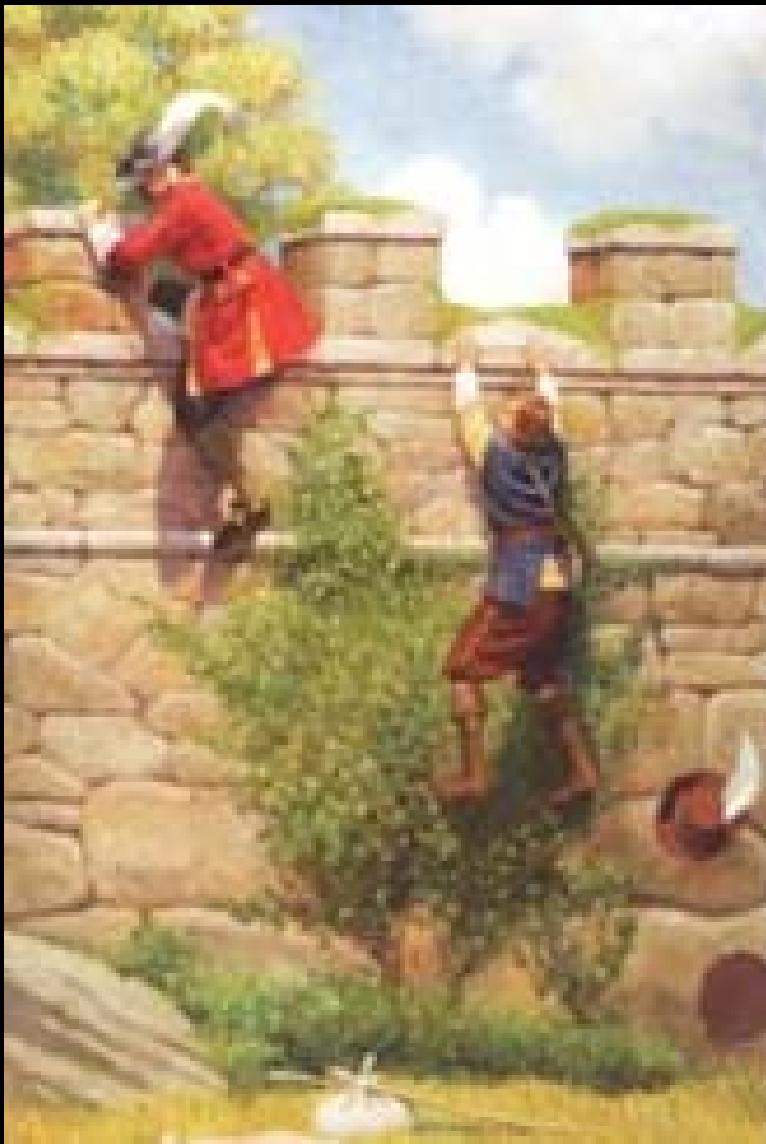
“Will your trespassing escape punishment?” asked Christian.

“No,” they replied. “An impartial judge will never condemn us. What difference does it make how one enters? We’re in. That’s all that matters. How we get in is irrelevant. Who’s to say that your choice of the Wicket Gate is better than our climbing over the wall?”

“I walk by the Master’s rule,” Christian kindly responded. “You walk by the rude working of your own invention. The Lord of the Way already condemns you as thieves. So, I have no doubt He will declare you guilty at the end of the Way. You entered by your own designs, not by His directions, and you will exit by those same designs, without His mercy.”

The three walked on in silence. Finally, the two impostors spoke, “Tend to yourself, busybody! You’re no better than we are. That coat you’re wearing was probably given to you by an embarrassed neighbor to cover your shame and nakedness.”

Formalist & Hypocrisy



Christian had much to learn about how to respond to scoffers. He responded to them, “You cannot be saved because you did not come in through the Wicket Gate. Concerning this coat, it was given to me by the Lord of the Celestial City truly to cover the shame of my nakedness, my great guilt. Also, perhaps you have not noticed the mark on my forehead received the day my burden fell off. One more thing I received was a scroll which I read to comfort myself throughout my journey. It assures me that I will be admitted to the Celestial City where I will turn it in upon arrival. You probably have no interest in these things since you did not enter through the Gate but entered illegally by climbing over the wall.”

Formalist and Hypocrisy gave each other a knowing look and burst out in laughter at Christian.

The three continued to walk along the path, but Christian walked out ahead of the other two, no longer conversing with them. He would occasionally talk to himself, occasionally sighing, sometimes admonishing himself, and frequently refreshing his confidence by reading from the scroll that one of the Shining Angels gave him.

Then the three of them reached the foot of the Hill of Difficulty.

At the foot of the Hill of Difficulty, Christian, Formalist, and Hypocrisy came upon three divergent paths. The path that began at the Wicket Gate led straight up the steep incline. Another pathway diverged to the left along the foot of the hill and a third lay to the right, also along the base of the steep hill. One was marked Danger, the other Destruction.

They had to cross a bubbling spring. To his satisfaction, Christian took a long and deep drink of the fresh, cool water. Refreshed, he began to climb the Hill of Difficulty singing.

When Formalist and Hypocrisy saw how steep and high the Hill of Difficulty was and that two easy pathways were on either side of the straight and narrow path, they presumed both bypassed the hill and joined the main path on the other side. So, Formalist followed the path called Danger into a forest, and Hypocrisy followed the way of Destruction into a field full of dark and ominous mountains where he stumbled and fell never to be seen again.

Initially Christian ran up the Hill of Difficult but soon slowed to a brisk walk, then eventually near the top climbing by using hand and footholds because it was almost vertical.



About halfway up the Hill Christian found a shady arbor with a seat to rest his weary body. He sat down to rest. He removed the scroll from under his coat. Looking at his coat and reading the scroll comforted his spirit. Exhausted, he fell fast asleep, and as he did, the scroll slipped from his hand. Soon someone awakened him, saying

Startled, Christian leaped to his feet and hastily climbed to the top of the hill where he encountered two men who ran to meet him. Their names were Timorous and Mistrust. Timorous means Timid or Fearful.

For I perceive the way to life lies here.
Be strong, my heart, let's neither faint nor fear;
Better, though difficult, the right way to go,
Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.

They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;
they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them (Isa. 49:10).

**Go to the ant, O sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise.**
(Prov. 6:6).



As Christian reached the summit of the Hill of Difficulty, he met Timorous and Mistrust running directly at him.

“Sirs, what’s wrong? You’re running in the wrong direction.”

Breathlessly, Timorous replied, “We were going to the City of Zion, but as we proceed the dangers increase. So we’ve turned back to from where we came.”

Mistrust added, “Just ahead of you a two lions in the way. Whether sleeping or awake, we don’t know, but we’re sure they would tear us to shreds if we went any further.”

“You put fear in me. If I go back, I well perish in a city doomed for destruction. If I proceed to the Celestial City, I will reach safety. I must go forward.”

So he kept walking forward on the way but Timorous and Mistrust ran down the hill. As Christian walked, he pondered what the two men reported. He reached into his coat to retrieve the scroll for comfort. Oh, no. His assurance and certificate of entrance into the Celestial City was missing. He was deeply distressed. Then he remembered he had slept at the arbor. It must have fallen to the ground when he fell asleep. He confessed his negligence and hastened to look for the scroll.

With difficulty climbing downhill, he reached the arbor. There he cried out, “O wretched man that I am, that I should sleep in the daytime in the midst of difficulty, indulging the flesh instead of using the respite to relief my spirit.” He lamented, “I am retracing my steps because of my sin like Israel went back by way of the Red Sea to wander in the wilderness. O, the misery I have caused myself. Three times walking these steps instead of just once.”

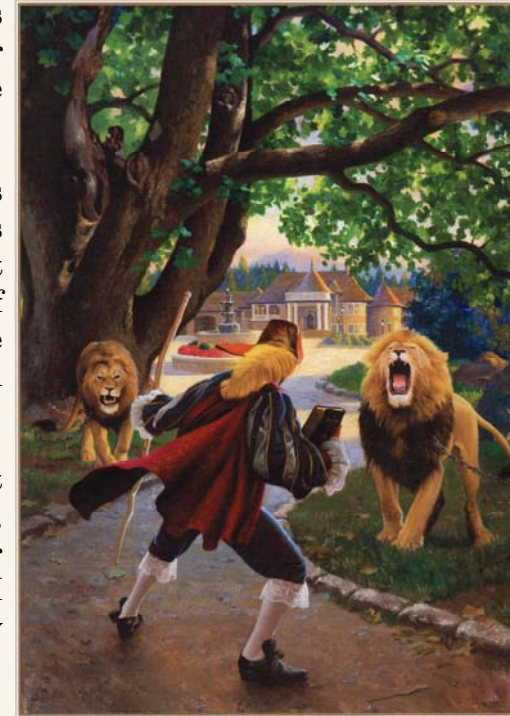


When Christian reached the arbor he sat down where he had slept. Now he wept. He looked down beneath the bench and spied the scroll. Christian erupted with joyous praise to God for retrieving the certificate that assures his entrance into the Celestial City. He clutched the scroll to his heart and gave thanks to the Lord for directing his eyes to the place it was lying. With renewed joy, he left the arbor behind for a second time and hastened on his journey, retracing his steps to the summit of the Hill of Difficulty.

But before he reached the top of the hill, the sun had set. This prompted him once more to lament the foolishness and vanity of his sleeping at the arbor. So he chided himself, “O sinful sleep. For that little rest caused me so much trouble compounding the Hill of Difficulty. Now I must pick my way along the trail in the dark while listening to the frightening calls of terrifying creatures all because I fell asleep when I should have been wide awake.”

At that moment he recalled the story Timorous and Mistrust told about two lions in the path. Christian’s imagination was active as he thought, almost out loud, “These beasts prowl in the dark of night looking for their prey, and if they should meet with me in the dark, how can I escape from them? How should I keep from being torn in pieces by them.

He trudged on, trembling for fear of the lions but carefully following the directions given him. Then, suddenly while fretting over his imagined plight, his eyes widened to behold a beautiful house. The place was called House Beautiful.



The Misplaced Scroll



“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life^[d] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? (Mark 8:34-37).

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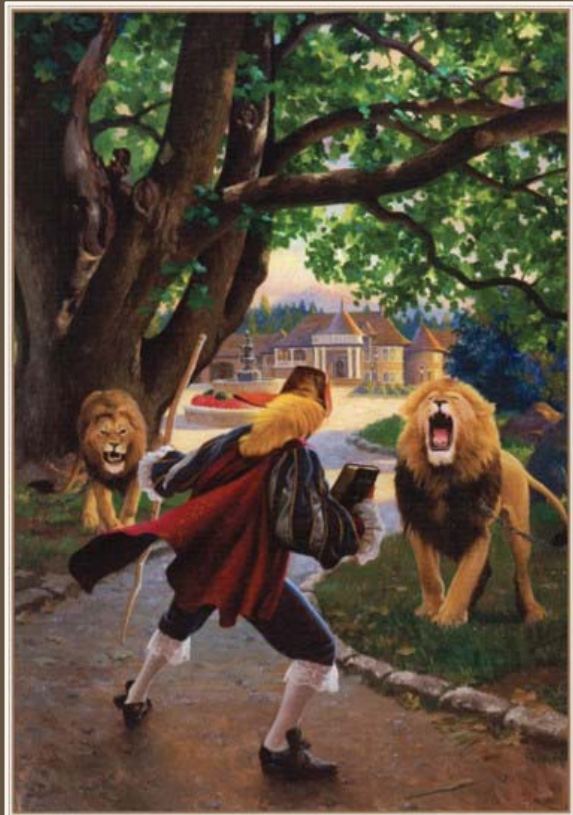
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He trudged on, trembling for fear of the lions but carefully following the directions given him. Then, suddenly while fretting over his imagined plight, his eyes widened to behold a beautiful house. The place was called

He heard the lions roar.

The Lions on the Way to the Palace Beautiful



NEXT WEEK
CHRISTIAN ARRIVES
AT THE
PALACE BEAUTIFUL



CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH

