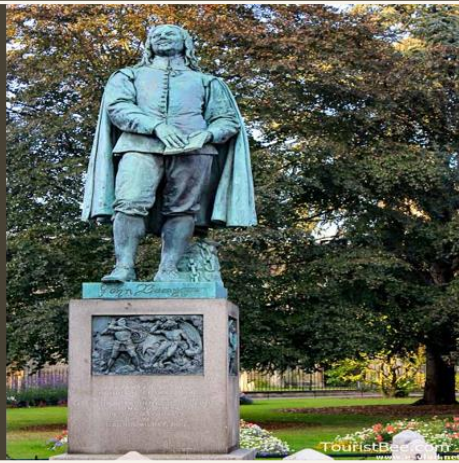


“WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.”
ACTS 14:22



JOHN BUNYAN'S *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH



THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

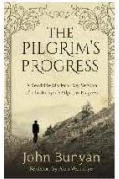
Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will increase, the love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

Matthew 24:9-13

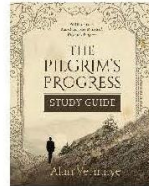




Study of *The Pilgrim's Progress* Spring 2024



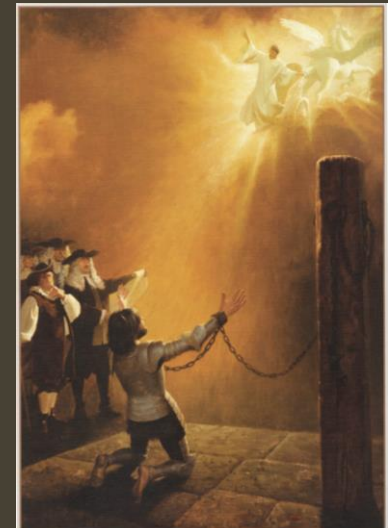
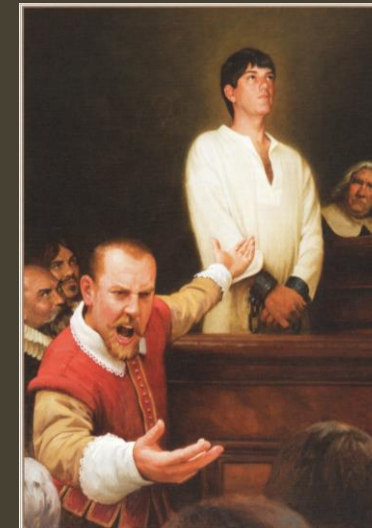
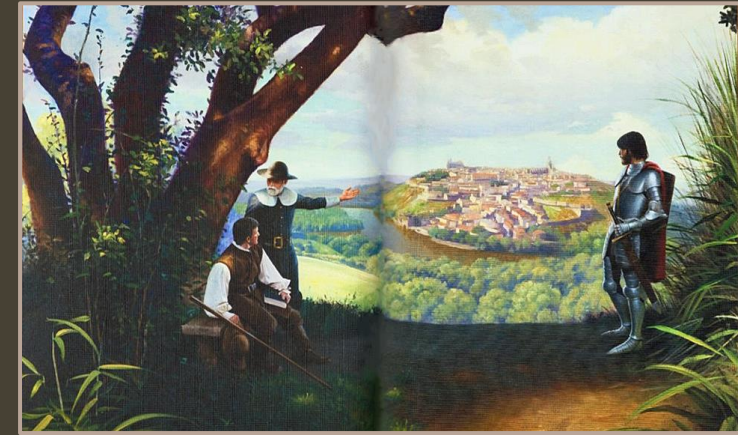
[The Pilgrim's Progress—A Readable Modern-Day Version of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress — Revision by Alan Vermilye](#)
[The Pilgrim's Progress — Study Guide](#)



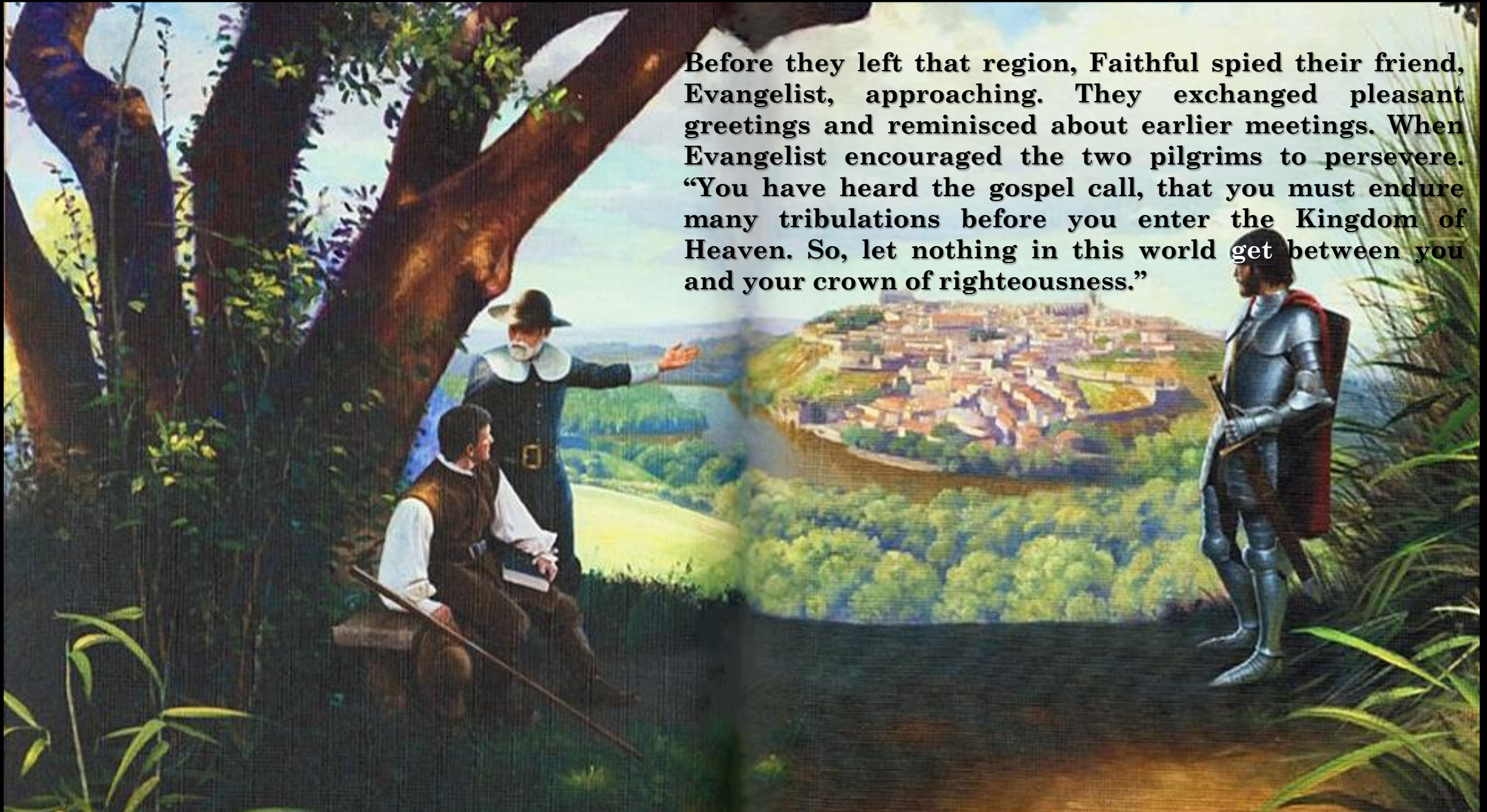
Session	Date	Pages		Chapter
		Pilgrim's Progress	Study Guide	
1	February 4	13-33	22-31	1
2	February 11	34-55	32-45	2
3	February 18	56-68	46-54	3
4	February 25	69-83	55-63	4
5	March 3	84-97	64-70	5
6	March 10	98-124	71-80	6
7	March 17	125-136	81-85	7
8	March 24	137-152	86-93	8
	March 31	No Class—Easter 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](#)

EVANGELIST WARNS — CHRISTIAN AND FAITHFUL AT VANITY FAIR



Before they left that region, Faithful spied their friend, Evangelist, approaching. They exchanged pleasant greetings and reminisced about earlier meetings. When Evangelist encouraged the two pilgrims to persevere. "You have heard the gospel call, that you must endure many tribulations before you enter the Kingdom of Heaven. So, let nothing in this world get between you and your crown of righteousness."



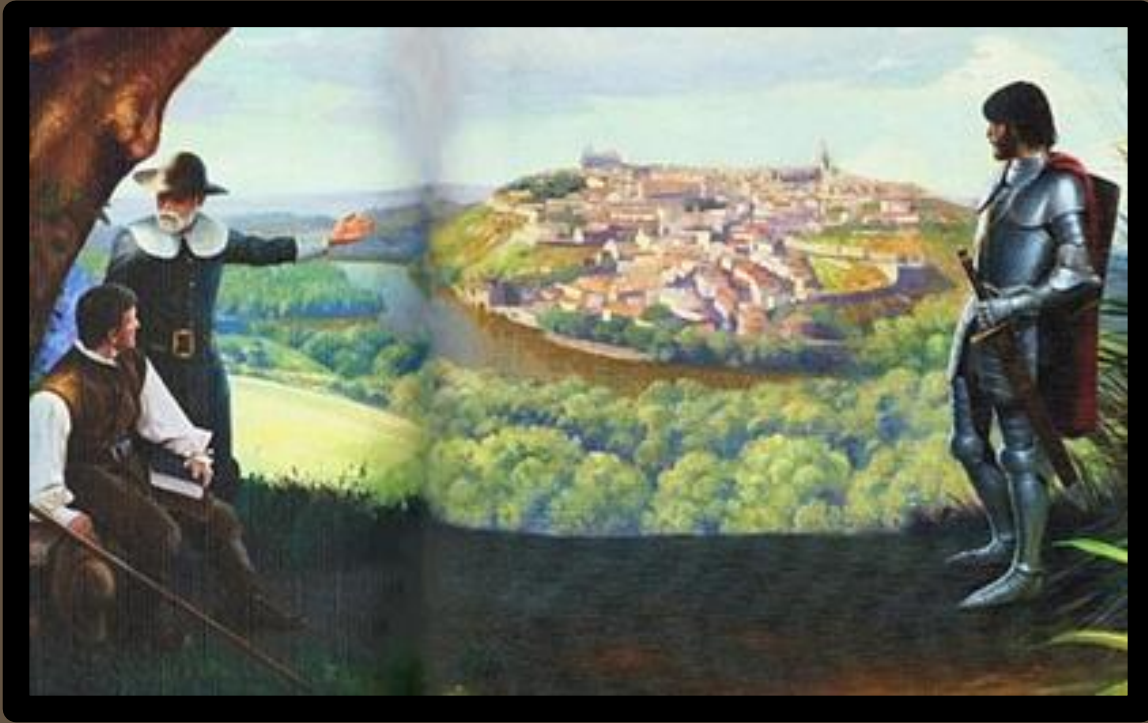


No!

NOT THAT

VANITY FAIR!

Vanity Fair magazine is named after the town of Vanity Fair in John Bunyan's 17th-century allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. There, Vanity Fair is a perpetual fair that symbolizes worldly ostentation, frivolity, and idle pleasures.



“You are almost out of this wilderness and will very soon see the town you will enter next on your journey. In that town you will be set upon by enemies who will be determine to kill you and who will succeed. You can be sure that one or both of you must seal his testimony with blood. So be faithful unto death, and the King will give you a crown of life.”

Evangelist warned Christian and Faithful that they would encounter tribulation when they entered Vanity Fair, even that at least one of them would be killed on account of the gospel.

As Evangelist warned, the town they were about to enter was called Vanity. In that village was a year-round ancient market called Vanity Fair. It was so named because all the merchandise sold there was of no permanence but quite vain and worthless.

Every imaginable item of merchandise was sold there: houses, lands, trades, honors, titles, lusts, and pleasures. All kinds of delights were also sold—prostitutes, lewd entertainment, silver, gold, pearls, gems, and more.

Other merchants eager to rob people of good sense were jugglers, gamers, cheats, clowns, mimes, magicians, and every other kind of vain amusement.

Vanity Fair was a veritable World Market displaying the wares from many nations.

The pathway to the Celestial City passes directly through Vanity Village. Passage through the town could not be avoided.

Even the “King of kings” passed through this town where Beelzebub, the lord of the fair, tempted him with vain wares of, none of which he purchased.

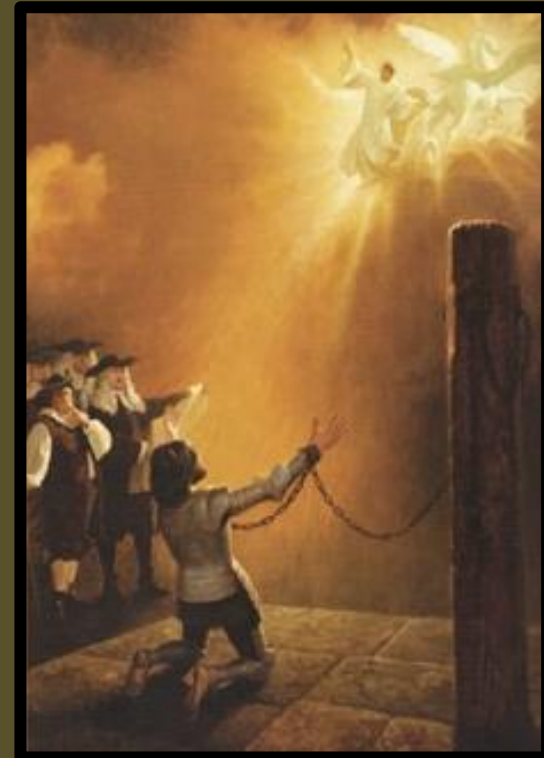
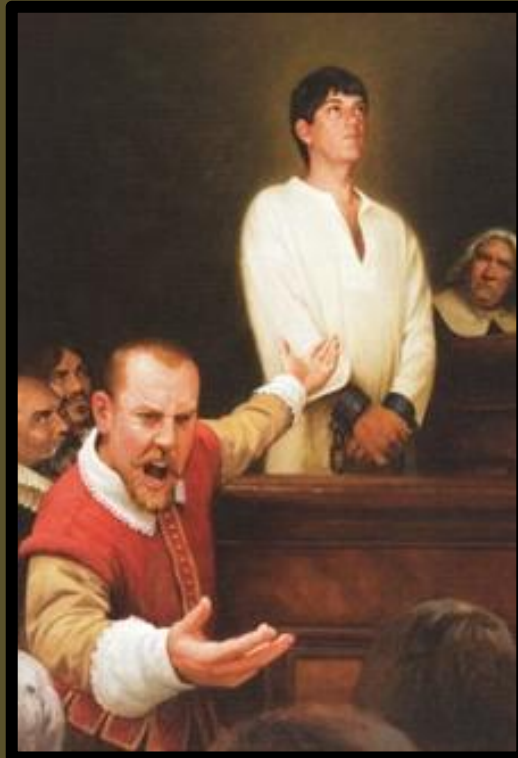
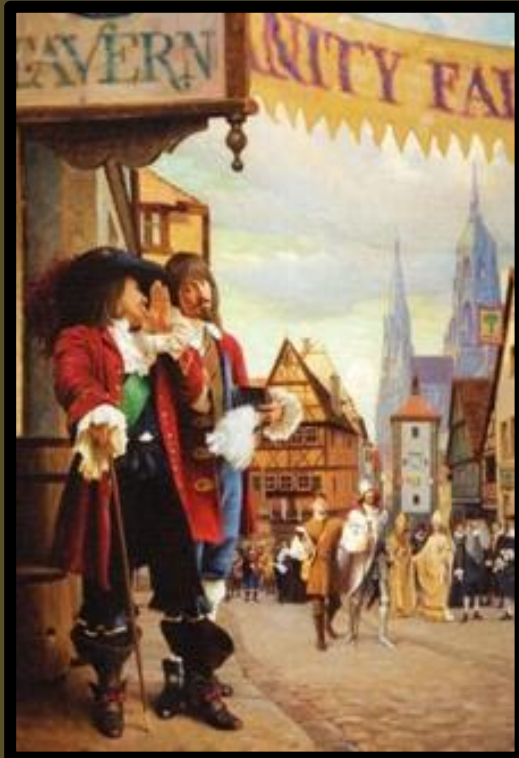


THREE EPISODES

Enter Vanity

Faithful on Trial

Faithful Departs



When Faithful and Christian unintentionally drew a crowd of mockers who jeered them for (1) their attire, noticeably different from Vanity's citizens, (2) their speech, which was filled with holy conversation about the Lord and his actions, seemingly barbaric to cultured elites of Vanity, and (3) their resolute refusal to be tempted to buy the glittering and sparkling vanities.

When cajoled to purchase sparkling treasures, the two men responded, "The truth is what we look for to buy."

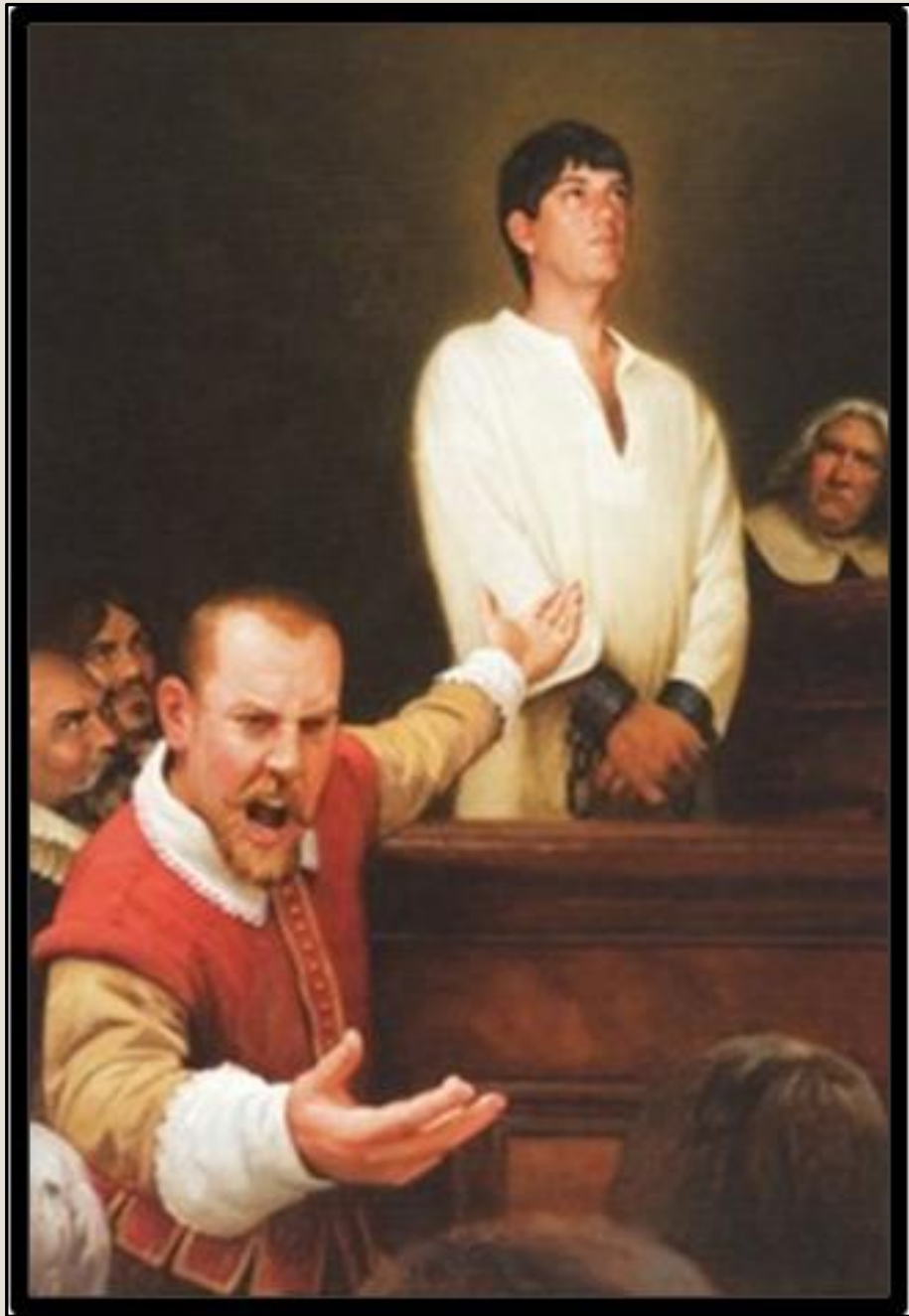
Their response triggered the sensitivities of many who mocked, taunted, and slandered them, as some even suggested they should be beaten for offending them. Gossips hastily brought word to Vanity Fair's governor, who took great offense at the men and had them arrested and investigated by the Minister of Injustice. He interrogated the pilgrims concerning their towns of origin, where they were traveling, and why they wore unusual garments.

They acknowledged they were pilgrims and strangers who were on their way to the Celestial City. They boldly insisted that nothing about their behavior warranted being arrested and detained. They were not thieves. In fact, they did not even want to buy anything at the market but only the truth.

Their interrogators were bent on punishing them as lunatics worthy of beatings, being smeared with mud, and caged as spectacles for the sport of fairgoers who mocked them derisively.

Some who observed sympathized with the cage pilgrims. This enraged their abusers. A debate between the pilgrims' sympathizers and accusers became a verbal brawl. Then, despite the impeccable behavior of the two caged men, like the sewer rats they were, those who arrested them charged them for creating a public disturbance at the fair, shackled them, and paraded them through the streets. Despite this shameful humiliation, Christian and Faithful behaved at followers of the Lamb, winning many more to side with them but far fewer than all who cried out for them to be put to death.





Now, bound over for trial, the two conversed about Evangelist's prophecy, comforting one another. Eventually, they heard the judge, Lord Hate-Good, read the charges against them: "Faithful and Christian are enemies to and disturbers of the Fair. They made commotions and caused divisions in the town and prevailed on many to join them in their most dangerous opinions, in contempt of the law of their own King."

Faithful responded to the indictment. He testified truthfully concerning his peaceful behavior that those who recognized their innocence turned from falsehood to truth. He defied their prince, Beelzebub, and confessed loyalty to the Lord of God's Kingdom.

Three witnesses came forward to speak evil against them: Envy, Superstition, and Flatterer. Sworn as a witness, Envy, who claimed he had known Faithful for many years, testified against him for claiming Christianity and the customs of Vanity are opposed to one another and irreconcilable. Thus, "He condemns both our praiseworthy deeds and us.

Superstition, also known as False Devotion, alleged Faithful said, "Our religion is in vain and that in no way could it ever please God." He continued, "So, if our religion is in vain, then our sins are not forgiven and we are damned."

Next, Flatterer, eager to praise and cajole everyone present but the prisoners, claimed he had known Faithful for a long time and heard him say things that no human should ever utter, blaspheming Beelzebub and his honorable colleagues, Lord Old Man, Lord Carnal Delight, Lord Luxurious, Lord Desire of Vainglory, and other lords and ladies. "He even slandered you, my lord, calling you an ungodly villain."

After the judge exploded with rage, he relented long enough to offer Faithful a moment to testify in his own defense, speaking truthfully in response to each charge.



The judge addressed the jury concerning the charges against Faithful and the three witnesses who testified against him. Then he sat in his chair to instruct the jury how they should understand their responsibility with regard to the law.

He recited the decree made in the days of Pharaoh that anyone who advocates for a false religion must be thrown into the river and left for dead.

Again, he recited another decree made in the days of Nebuchadnezzar that whoever would not bow down to worship his golden image should be thrown into a fiery furnace.

Then he recalled another decree from the days of Darius that anyone who would call on another god, other than himself, should be cast into the lion's den.

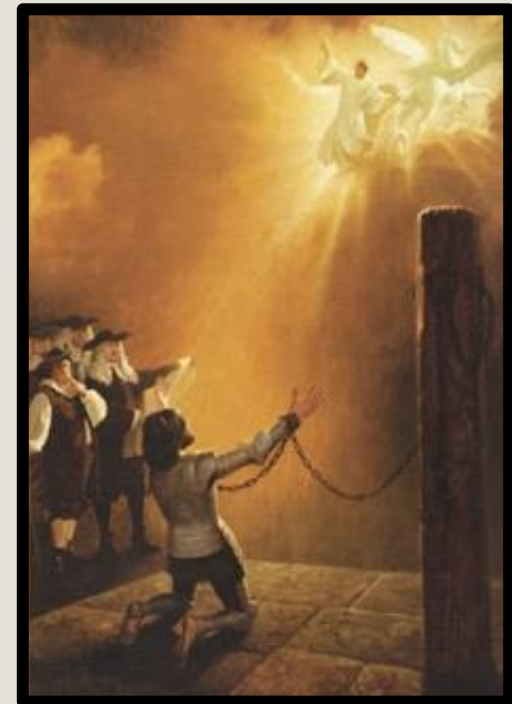
Pointing his bony finger at Faithful, the judge bellowed, "Now this rebel has broken the substance of these laws, not only in thought, which is bad enough, but not yet an indictable offense, but also in word and action, which must never be tolerated."

The judge then declared, "For the treason he has already confessed, he deserves to die."

The auspicious jury consisting of Mr. Blindman, Mr. No-Good, Mr. Malice, Mr. Love-Lust, Mr. Live-Loose, Mr. Heady, Mr. High-Mind, Mr. Enmity, Mr. Liar, Mr. Cruelty, Mr. Hate-Light, and Mr. Unforgiving, retreated to a room to consider a verdict which each privately delivered to the judge and unanimously condemned Faithful.

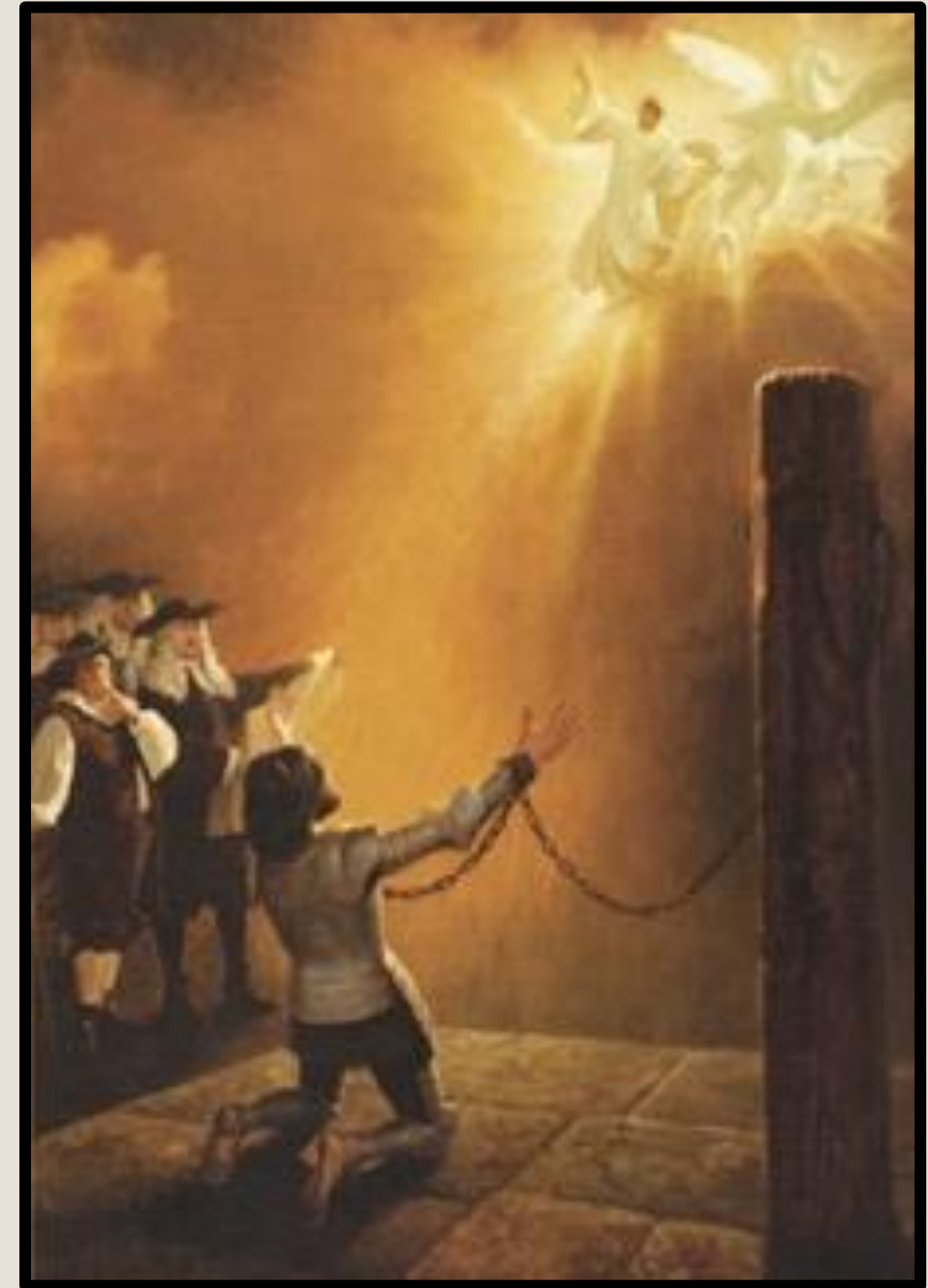
Faithful was brought out to be executed. He was whipped, then beaten, then slashed with knives, stoned, stabbed with swords, and finally burned to ashes at the stake. They were finished with Faithful.

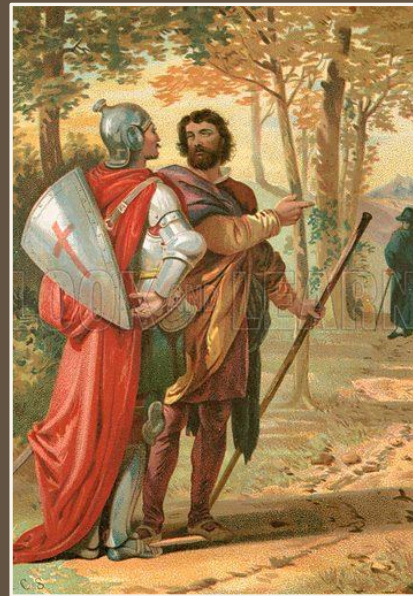
But the Lord over all the lords present had the last word. He sent his angels to receive Faithful by the quickest route to the Celestial Gate. The Lord welcomed Faithful into the Celestial City as Evangelist had prophesied.



FAITHFUL WAS RETURNED TO PRISON FOR SOME TIME. BUT THE LORD WHO RULES ALL THINGS, EVEN HOLDING THE POWER OF THE RAGE OF VILE MEN, WORKED ALL THINGS TO HIS OWN GLORY SO THAT AFTER CHRISTIAN HAD SOME TIME TO REST, HE WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM PRISON AND FROM VANITY TO CONTINUE ON HIS JOURNEY.

AS HE LEFT THE TOWN OF VANITY, CHRISTIAN SPOKE TO HIMSELF, “WELL, FAITHFUL, YOU HAVE FAITHFULLY PROFESSED YOUR LORD, AND SO YOU WILL BE BLESSED. WHEN FAITHLESS ONES, WITH ALL THEIR WORTHLESS DELIGHTS, ARE CRYING OUT UNDER THEIR HELLISH PLIGHTS, SING, FAITHFUL, SING, AND LET YOUR NAME SURVIVE. FOR THOUGH THEY HAVE KILLED YOU, YET YOU ARE ALIVE!”





NEXT WEEK
CHRISTIAN &
HOPEFUL ESCAPE
VANITY FAIR
& MEET MORE
RELIGIOUS FRAUDS



CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH

