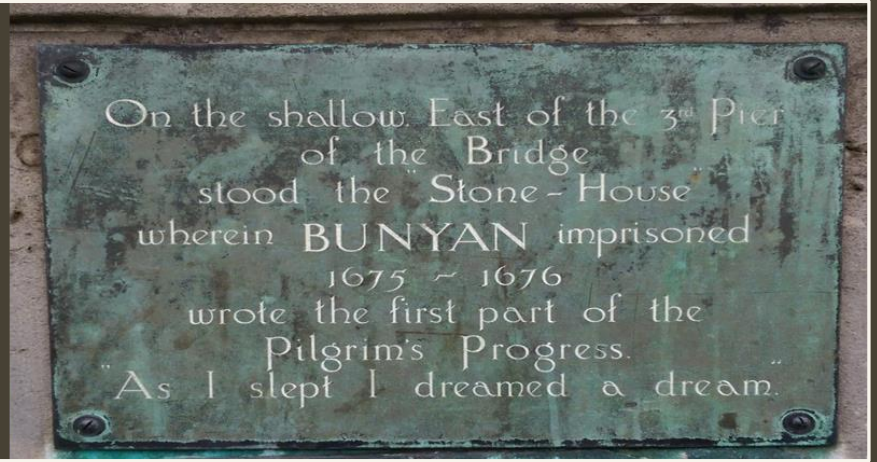
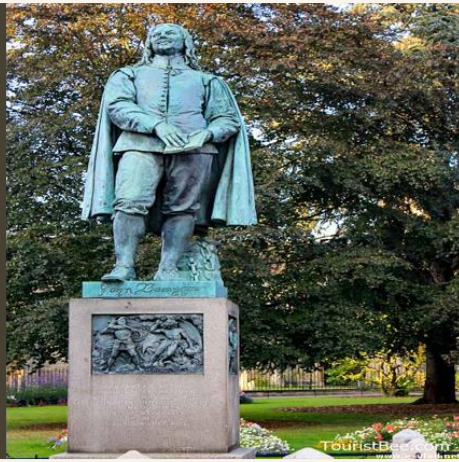


“WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD.”

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.**

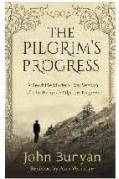
Matthew 24:9-13



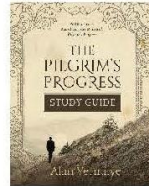


# CHRISTIAN & HOPEFUL ESCAPE VANITY & MEET MORE RELIGIOUS FRAUDS

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

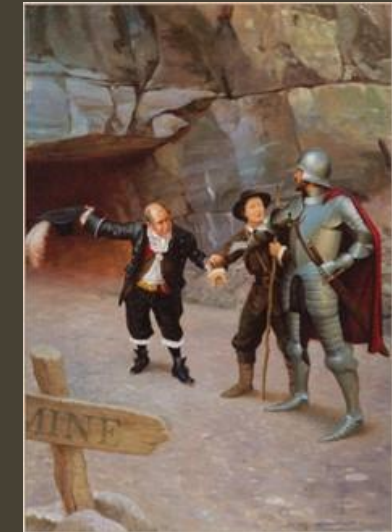
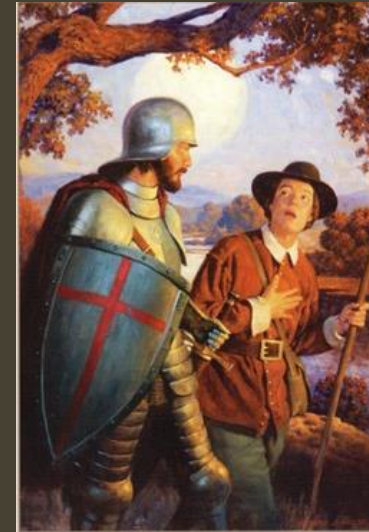


[The Pilgrim's Progress—A Readable Modern-Day Version of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress — Revision by Alan Vermilye](#)  
[The Pilgrim's Progress — Study Guide](#)



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	<b>No Class—Easter Sunday</b>		
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](#)



# FOUR EPISODES

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Escape from  
Vanity



Fair-Speech &  
Friends



Demas & The  
Silver Mine



Lot's Wife,  
A Warning







Christian's captors, who planned to execute him later, returned him to his prison cell for some time. In God's wonderful providence, after Christian had some time to rest, he met a man named Hopeful who became a pilgrim after observing how Christian and Faithful had behaved throughout all their unjust sufferings in Vanity.

Christian welcomed Hopeful as a friend after his friend Faithful was executed. Together, they were able to escape from prison and from Vanity to continue on toward the Celestial City.



Christian and Hopeful had not traveled far when they met a man from the village of Fair-Speech. He claimed to be heading to the Celestial City.

The inhabitants of the village of “Fair Speech” called their language “Fair-Speech. Orwell called the language of Oceania “Newspeak.” Since the late 1970s, Westerners, especially Americans, have been calling it “Political Correctness.” God’s Word calls that same speech “Deceptive Speech.”

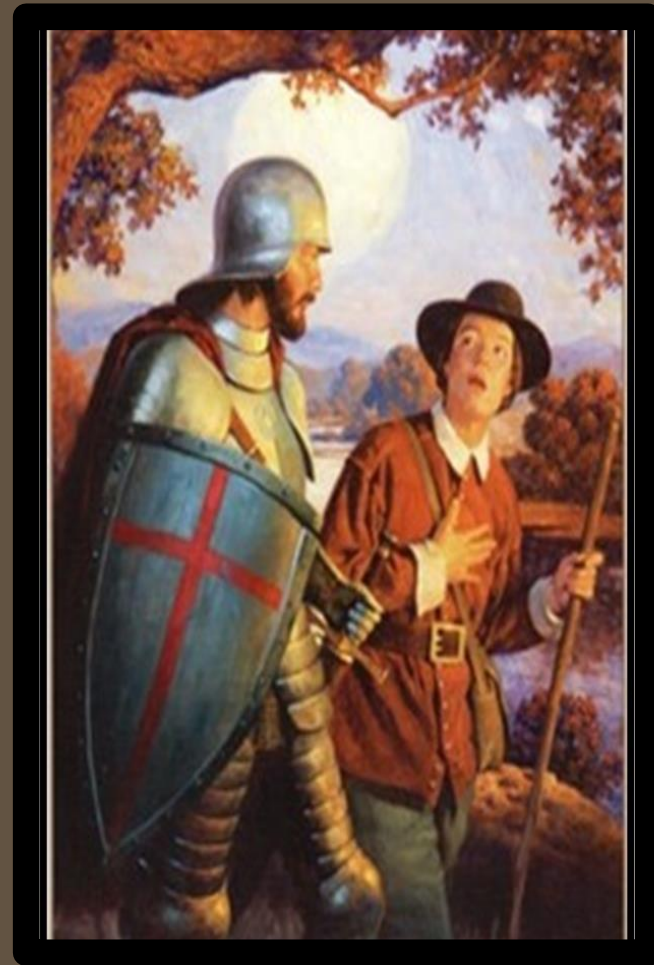
Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips  
and harbors deceit in his heart;  
when he speaks graciously, believe him not.  
for there are seven abominations in his heart;  
Though his hatred be covered with deception,  
his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.

**Proverbs 26:24-26**

- The man showed reluctance to tell his name to Christian.
- Christian probed for more information: “I’ve heard of your town, Fair-Speech. It’s a wealthy city. Right? And who are some of your friends and family?”
- The man happily volunteered about the city’s wealth and divulged names: Lord Turn-About, Lord Time-Server, Lord Fair-Speech, Mr. Smooth-Man, Mr. Facing-Both-Ways, Mr. Anything, and a relative, Mr. Two-Tongues pastors the local church.
- Pastor Two-Tongues learned his skill by watching his great-grandfather, a boatsman, who looked in one direction as he rowed the opposite.
- This man married a well-bred woman, the daughter of Madam Pretender (Lady Feigning), socially adept with royalty or redneck.
- He portrayed his religion as less strict in two ways:
  - Calm & comfortable, never opposing popular currents.
  - Fashionable & favorable, great at virtue-signaling.



- Christian has a side conversation with Hopeful. He identifies the man by his reputation as Mr. By-Ends of the village Fair-Speech, a scoundrel.
- The man is offended, denies the name, and calls it an abusive nickname he is forced to endure as a maligned good man.
- When Christian asked if his behavior had ever warranted the nickname, he protested but conceded that one investment yielded enormous gain for him that some may condemn as unethical but was upright.
- Christian's view of the man did not change. If Mr. By-Ends joined them, he would have to go against the currents, contrary to his principles, and accept religion in rags or riches.
- Mr. By-Ends retorted, "You must not impose nor lord it over my faith; leave me to my liberty, and let me go with you. I shall never desert my old principles since they are harmless and profitable."
- Christian and Hopeful hastened on, leaving Mr. By-Ends to himself.



## MR. BY-ENDS

By-end means a private end or ambition, a secret purpose or design, a hidden agenda.



Christian looked back and saw three men join Mr. By-Ends with courtly gestures. Their names reflect their characters: Mr. Hold-the-World, Mr. Money-Love, and Mr. Save-All. Once, all four were schoolmates at Love-Again School in County Coveting. There, Mr. Gripe-Man taught them the art of gaining wealth by violence, fraud, flattery, lying, or disguising themselves as religious men. So skilled, they each taught in their own schools.

- Money-Love asked, “Who are those men walking ahead of us?”
- This opened the floodgates of Mr. By-Ends gossip.
- “They are rigid men, in love with their own ideas. They disdain others’ opinions. They’re so narrow-minded they can see through a keyhole with both eyes at the same time.”
- Mr. Save-All observed, “That’s bad. I’ve read of those people, so overly righteous, condemning everyone but themselves. On what did you disagree with them? By-Ends summarized: “They risk everything for God, but I carefully secure my life and estate. Their religious beliefs are against what all others believe. I’m for religion also, but only to the degree that the cultural currents are favorable to it. Their religion makes them content with rags and contempt; mine favors riches and approval. Acceptable religion frees one to strut one’s virtues and expose those who do not engage in Fair-Speech to be ashamed.”
- Mr. Hold-the-World agreed, “He is a fool who gives what he can keep to gain what he can lose. I am highly in favor of ‘fair-weather religion.’ I like the religion that wants you to live your best life. Both reason and the Bible endorse this religion. So, there’s nothing more to say except this, people who do not believe this have to seek their own security.”

- By-Ends wanted his traveling companions to answer this: “Suppose a minister or business professional has an opportunity for promotion but the only way he can receive it is by becoming extremely passionate about an aspect of religion in which he is not interested. Can’t he exploit the opportunity by pretending to be interested in the subject and remain an upstanding, honest man?”

- Mr. Money-Love argued that a minister with a modest income could seek a more lucrative and influential pastorate by accommodating his principles to the preferences and temperament of the congregation he seeks to lead and remain an honest man. After all, desiring a greater income is lawful, and God’s providence presents him with this opportunity. He also reasoned that a businessman who, if he could show himself to be a religious man, has an opportunity to gain new customers and wealth by marrying a woman from a rich family. Everyone present applauded his reasoning.
- They thought this reasoning so airtight no one could refute it. So, because Christian and Hopeful were still within sight, they decided to spring their trap on these two men.
- Christian, more mature than Hopeful, responded to the question and quite readily refuted the question, escaping the trap.



- He refuted the reasoning by appealing to Scripture:
1. Jews followed Jesus to possess miraculous bread.
  2. Hamor & Shechem exploited the guise of religion, accepting circumcision, to gain possession of Israel’s women and cattle.
  3. Pharisees who made a show of religion to gain the affection of wealthy widows.
  4. Simon the Magician desired to purchase apostolic authority.
  5. Judas craved possessing money more than Christ.

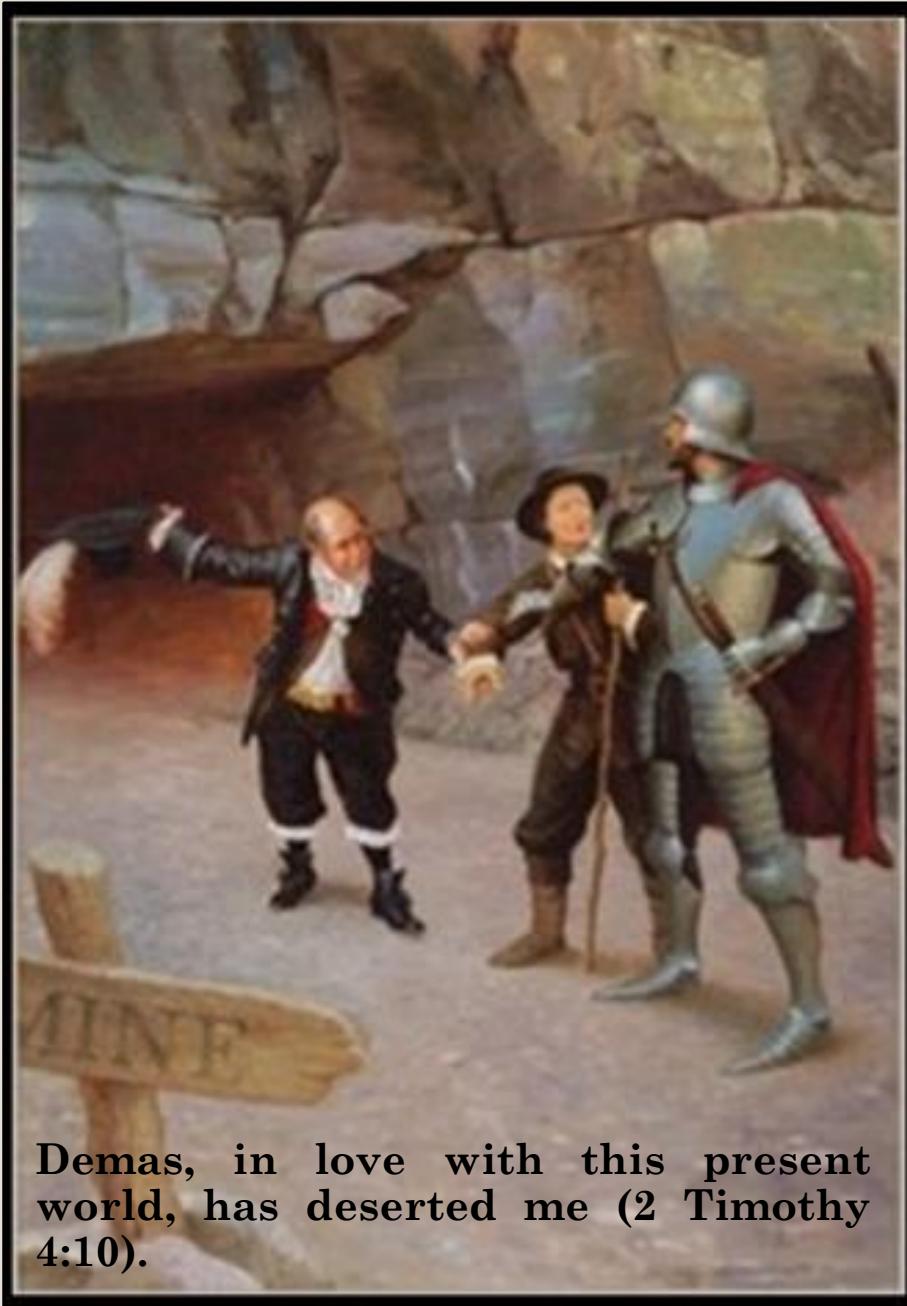
**The inquisitors stood mute. They had no response. Christian and Hopeful continued on their journey.**



**Judas Iscariot—  
The Patron Saint of Politicians  
Extremely Generous with Other People's Wealth**

“Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.”

Gospel of John 12:5



Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me (2 Timothy 4:10).

Once Christian and Hopeful crossed the small plain called Ease, they came to a hill called Lucre. Some called it Greedy Profit. Silver miners dug a mine shaft into the hill. A dapper gentleman named Demas stood outside the mine. He called the two travelers to see the mine.

Hopeful was tempted, but Christian was not because he had heard about the mine. He warned his friend, “It’s a trap to waylay pilgrims.”

Demas persistently beckoned them to look, but Christian rebuffed him, “Demas, you are an enemy of all who pursue the ways of the Lord. I know you have already been condemned by one of His Majesty’s judges for turning aside yourself. Why do you want to bring us to the same condemnation? If we turn aside here, our Lord the King would surely hear about this and reveal our shame. Our desire is to stand with boldness before Him.”

Demas protested, but Christian and Faithful continued on their way. Mr. By-Ends and his friends were approaching. They immediately accepted Demas’s invitation, just as Christian and Hopeful expected they would.

When Christian and Hopeful left Demas with Mr. By-Ends and his friends, they came upon what looked like an old monument. It had the appearance of a statue in the shape of a woman.

They were puzzled what it was until Hopeful spied an inscription. Because he was not an educated man, Hopeful asked Christian to decipher the inscription.

Christian studied the writing and exclaimed, "Remember Lot's Wife!" Indeed, it was no mere statue. It was Lot's wife who had been turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back with covetousness while fleeing Sodom before the Lord's wrath fell on that wicked city.

The two pilgrims stood somberly to ponder the episode of Lot and his wife. They realized how timely this warning was just after they rejected Demas's effort to tempt them with elusive wealth at the silver mine. They praised God for his grace, keeping them from yielding lest they also become pillars like this woman.

Hopeful confessed his foolishness, about to yield to temptation except for Christian's admonition. Together, they expressed thankfulness as they praised the Lord God.





NEXT WEEK  
CHRISTIAN &  
HOPEFUL AT THE  
PLEASANT RIVER, IN  
BY-PATH MEADOW, &  
GIANT DESPAIR'S  
DUNGEON



CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH

