

"The Pilgrims Progress"
Time To Awake Out Of Sleep
(Page 21-22)

Introduction:

1. In Romans 13:11:
 - The Apostle Paul Writes These Words:
 - To Christians - "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed!"
 - Yes - Even Christians:
 - From Time To Time:
 - Fall Asleep:
 - In Their Roles & Responsibilities:
 - As God's Lights In This Dark World!
 - From Time To Time:
 - We Need To Be Stirred Up:
 - From Our Slumber - And Be Told:
 - "To Awake Out Of Sleep!"
2. Well - As We Return To:
 - Our Journey With The Pilgrim:
 - In The Pilgrim's Progress:
 - We Find That:
 - Not Too Far From:
 - The Place Of His Deliverance:
 - Which We Looked At Last Sunday Night!
 - Not Too Far From:
 - That Place Where:
 - Just The Sight Of A Cross & A Sepulchre:
 - Provided Relief From The Heavy Burden:
 - He Was Carrying On His Back!
 - Not Too Far At All:
 - Christian Saw The Danger Of:
 - Spiritual Slumber First Hand!
3. And So - As We Pick Up:
 - From Where We Left Off Last Week:
 - We'll Start Reading From The Top Of Page 21:
 - *"I Saw Then In My Dream . . ."*
 - Read Through:
 - Page 22, Paragraph 4:
 - *"Also He Would Be Often Reading In The Roll That One Of The Shining Ones Gave Him, By Which He Was Refreshed!"*
4. What A Way To Begin Your Christian Life & Journey!
 - To Meet Up With These Kinds Of:
 - "Professing Christians" - Not Too Far & Not Too Long:
 - From The Place Of Your Deliverance!
 - But - Sadly - All Too Often:
 - What Was The Case For This Young Christian:
 - Is The Case For All Young Christians!
5. Its Clear That:
 - When He Had Received From The Lord:
 - "Rest By His Sorrow & Life By His Death":
 - He Had A Spring In His Step - And:
 - A Song In His Mouth!
 - Remember The Last Lines:
 - Of His Song? Page 20:
 - *"Blest Cross! Blest Sepulchre! Blest Rather Be The Man That There Was Put To Shame For Me!"*
6. Yes - Christian Was On A Spiritual High:

- After Finally Being Relieved:
 - From His Burden - And:
 - Receiving Fresh Comforts From God:
 - Through Those *“Three Shining Ones!”*
- But, What Does He Come To Next?
 - *Three Sleeping Ones!*
 - And I Think Bunyan Intended For The Contrast Between Those Two Groups:
 - To Be Stark!

7. And So - He Meets Up With:
- Not Only These Three Sleeping Pilgrims:
 - But Then - Two Suspicious Pilgrims:
 - Meet Up With Him!

8. And, I Trust That:
- As We Read About The Encounters:
 - Our Christian Pilgrim Had:
 - With These Five Men:
 - You Noticed That:
 - There Is Something Of Each Of Those Characters:
 - Still Within You!
 - Because - As We Look At Them:
 - A Bit More Closely Tonight:
 - Let Their Ways:
 - Be A Warning To Us All!
 - So That We Might *“Awake Out Of – Our Own – Sleep!”*

* The First Group Christian Encounters Is:

1. *The Sleeping Pilgrims!*

- With The Names:
 - Simple, Sloth & Presumption!
 - Now - One Of The Things We’ve Already Scene In The Pilgrim’s Progress:
 - Is That The Names Of These Characters:
 - Reveal To Us:
 - Their Natures!
 - And So It Is With These Three!
- The Name Of The First Sleeping One:
 - Is Simple!
 - But, This Does Not Describe This Man’s Intelligence:
 - But Rather - His Wilful Ignorance & Indifference:
 - To Spiritual Things!
 - He Was Not Willing:
 - To Keep Learning:
 - From Christ!
 - Like Christian:
 - He Started On That Path:
 - But - Where Was He & The Others Now?
 - As Bunyan Tells Us - *“At A Bottom”* & *“A Little Out Of The Way!”*
 - This Is Where Christian Found Them!
 - What Happened To Him?
 - Well - After He Made It To The Same Place Of Deliverance:
 - He Felt Rather Safe & Secure:
 - And So He Went To Sleep!
 - In Fact - When Christian Stirred Him Up:
 - Remember His Response?
 - *“I See No Danger!”*
 - He Saw No Danger:
 - Because He Was Asleep!
 - But - What Was Around His Heel? Fetters! Shackles!
 - There Was Danger!

- In Part 2 Of Pilgrims Progress:
 - We Will Find These Same Men:
 - Hanging From Those Shackles, By Their Necks!
- And So It Is For Us!
 - We Must Not Be Like:
 - “He That Lieth Upon The Top Of A Mast!” (Proverbs 23:34)
 - **IE:** We Must Not Be Asleep At The Wheel! Why? Because All Around Us, There Are Things That Still Threaten Us!
- We Must Keep Watching - And:
 - Keep Applying Our Hearts Unto Wisdom!
 - The Wisdom Of God’s Word!
 - Proverbs 8:5-6 - “O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. / Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things!”
- Do You See The Spirit Of Simpleness:
 - In Your Heart?
 - Or Are You Still:
 - Learning From The Lord:
 - And His Will / Wisdom, Through His Word!
- The Name Of The Second Sleeping One:
 - Is Sloth!
 - This Describes His Apathy:
 - Towards The Things Of God!
 - He Was Not Willing:
 - To Keep Living:
 - For Christ!
 - For Sloth:
 - The Christian Life:
 - Seemed Far More Difficult Than:
 - He Thought It Should Be!
 - And It Just Wasn’t Worth The Effort!
 - And So He Thought - What Harm Could There Be:
 - With Just - “A Little Sleep, A Little Slumber, A Little Folding Of The Hands To Sleep!” (Proverbs 6:10-11)
 - But What Happened To Him?
 - “So Shall Thy Poverty Come As One That Travelleth, And Thy Want As An Armed Man!”
 - Alexander Whyte Describes One Tell-Tale Way:
 - To Discover Sloth In Our Christian Lives!
 - Consider Prayer!
 - “There is nothing we are all so slothful in as secret, particular, importunate prayer. We have an almighty instrument in our hand in secret and exact prayer if we would only importunately and perseveringly employ it!”
 - And Yet - How Many Times Are We Told In The Bible:
 - That Diligence Is Necessary:
 - In Our Christian Lives?
 - And Especially In Prayer!
 - Proverbs 4:23 - “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life!”
 - Hebrews 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him!”
 - 2 Peter 1:5 - “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge!”
 - And More Can Be Added!
 - Do You See The Spirit Of Slothfulness:
 - In Your Heart?
 - Or Are You Still:
 - Living For The Lord:
 - With All Diligence!

- The Name Of The Third Sleeping One:
 - Is Presumption!
 - And This Describes His Pride & Arrogance:
 - Concerning The Things Of God!
 - He Was Not Willing:
 - To Keep Looking:
 - To Christ!
 - He Was Not Humble:
 - Nor Was He Teachable!
 - And So - When Confronted By:
 - This Young, Whipper-Snapper Christian:
 - His Retort Was:
 - “Every Fat / Vat / Tub Must Stand Upon Its Own Bottom!”
 - **IE:** Everyone Must Paddle Their Own Canoe!
 - In Other Words - You Stick To Your Own Business, And I’ll Stick To Mine!
 - And His Business Was The Business Of Presumptuous Sin!
 - Alexander White Describes:
 - What Presumption Is Really All About:
 - “Presumption . . . Had Been At The Cross With His Past Sin, And Had Left The Cross To Commit The Same Sin At The First Opportunity!”
 - Its No Wonder He Was So Defensive & Touchy:
 - When Christian Tried To Help Him:
 - With His Shackles Of Presumptuous Sin!
 - Do You See The Spirit Of Presumption:
 - In Your Heart?
 - Or Are You Regularly & Consistently:
 - Looking To The Lord!
 - Even As David Did & Prayed:
 - Psalm 19:13 - “Keep Back Thy Servant Also From Presumptuous Sins!”
 - And So - For All Three:
 - There Was No Progress:
 - In Their Pilgrimage!
 - And This Must Have Greatly Discouraged Christian!
 - After All - He Did All He Could:
 - To Awaken Them!
 - To Alert Them! And:
 - Even To Aid Them!
 - But - They Wanted None Of It!
 - And So - “They Lay Down To Sleep Again, And Christian Went On His Way!”
 - Three Lessons From These Three Sleeping Pilgrims:
 - First - Have You Fallen Asleep:
 - In Your Own Life & Walk With The Lord?
 - Have You Forgotten The Lessons:
 - Of The Cross & The Tomb?
 - Second - How Do You Respond:
 - When Someone Tries To Stir You Up:
 - Out Of Your Slumber?
 - As Simple, Sloth & Presumption Did? Or:
 - Are You Humble & Teachable & Grateful!
 - Third - Do You See Your Own Responsibility:
 - To Wake Up Sleepy Saints & Pokey-Pilgrims:
 - As Christian Did?
 - Remember Romans 13:11:
 - “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed!”
 - Well - Not Too Far From This Group:

* The Second Group Christian Encounters Is:

2. *The Suspicious Pilgrims!*

- With The Names:
 - Formalist & Hypocrisy!
 - And - From The Start:
 - Our Young Christian Pilgrim:
 - Was Suspicious Of Them!
- After All:
 - They Bypassed Everything:
 - That He Had Just Went Through!
 - The Wicket-Gate!
 - The House Of Interpreter!
 - Even The Place Of Deliverance!
- And Instead:
 - They Got Into The Pathway:
 - By “Tumbling Over The Wall!”
 - For Them - It Was A Short-Cut:
 - So That They Could Go To Mount Sion – “For Praise!”
 - Not To *Give* Praise, But To *It Get* Praise!
- It Seems Like There Is Quite A Bit:
 - Of The Spirit Of Presumption:
 - In These Two Men!
- Formalist:
 - Represents Someone:
 - Who Is A Religious Performer!
 - As Paul Describes It:
 - In 2 Timothy 3:5 - “Having A Form Of Godliness, But Denying The Power Thereof!”
 - This Kind Of Person:
 - May Even Be Very Sincere:
 - In Their Words & Works!
 - But - They Do Not Understand:
 - Their True Nature As Sinners Before A Holy God!
 - Do You Find:
 - The Spirit Of Formalist:
 - In Your Heart?
 - Do Customs & Culture & Convenience:
 - Mean More To You:
 - And Is More Of A Rule For Your Life:
 - Than The Word Of God?
 - Well - As We See Formality Walking With Hypocrisy Together:
 - These Two Kinds Of People:
 - Are Closely Related!
 - Formalism Can Easily Lead To:
 - Hypocrisy!
 - John Kelman - “Hypocrisy Is Formalism Run Into Falsehood!” - And So:
- Hypocrisy:
 - Represents Someone:
 - Who Is A Religious Pretender!
 - The Hypocrite Pretends To Be What He Is Not:
 - Because - What *Others* Think Of Him:
 - Is More Important Than:
 - What *God* Things Of Him!
 - John Bunyan Understood The Spirit Of Hypocrisy All Too Well!
 - In Grace Abounding - He Wrote - “I continued about a year; all which time our neighbours did take me to be a very godly man, a new and religious man, and did marvel much to see such a great and famous alteration in my life and manners; and, indeed, so it was, though yet I knew not Christ, nor grace, nor faith, nor hope; . . . I was nothing but a poor painted hypocrite, yet I loved to be talked of as one that was truly godly. I was proud of my godliness, and, indeed, I did all I did,

- either to be seen of, or to be well spoken of, by man!”
- And That Is Why:
 - Jesus Warned Of Hypocrisy:
 - In Matthew 6:1-2 - “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. / Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward!”
- Do You Find:
 - The Spirit Of Hypocrisy:
 - In Your Heart?
 - I Like What John Bunyan Wrote About Hypocrisy In Another Book - On “Christian Behavior”:
 - “Take Heed Of Being Painted Fire, Wherein Is No Warmth; And Painted Flowers, Which Retain No Smell; And Of Being Painted Trees, Whereon Is No Fruit!”
- Both Of These Are Very Dangerous!
 - Because Both Can Lead To:
 - Self-Deception!
 - But Neither Of These Kinds Of People:
 - Possess What Is Necessary:
 - To Be Saved & Received:
 - “In At The Celestial Gate!”
 - But - At This Point:
 - Our Young Christian:
 - Takes His Stand - And:
 - In The Spirit Of Martin Luther Himself:
 - Gives His Defense Of The Way Of Salvation!
- He Tells Them That:
 - The Only Way Into The Celestial City Is:
 - Through The Gate:
 - Of The King!
 - “By Laws And Ordinances You Will Not Be Saved, Since You Came Not In By The Door!”
 - Spurgeon - “You Can Be right At The End If You Are Wrong At The Start?”
 - The Only Way Into The Celestial City Is:
 - With The Garment:
 - Of The King!
 - “As For This Coat That Is On My Back – Which They Had Mocked – It Was Given Me By The Lord Of The Place Whither I Go; And That, As You Say, To Cover My Nakedness With!”
 - The Only Way Into The Celestial City Is:
 - With The Guarantee:
 - Of The King!
 - “I Have, Moreover A Mark On My Forehead . . . Which One Of My Lord’s Most Intimate Associates Fixed There In The Day That My Burden Fell Off My Shoulders!”
 - The Only Way Into The Celestial City Is:
 - With The Guide:
 - Of The King!
 - “A Roll, Sealed” – “I Was Also Bid To Give It In At The Celestial Gate!”
- And So - Since Neither Formalist Nor Hypocrisy:
 - Had Any Of These Tokens Of True Faith:
 - Christian Adds - “All Which Things I Doubt You Want, And Want Them Because You Came Not In At The Gate!”
 - Here - Bunyan Uses A Play On The Word “Want!”
 - The First “Want” Means Desire!
 - The Second “Want” Means Lack!
 - So - He Tells Them:
 - You Don’t Want Or Desire:
 - Any Of These Things:
 - That Are Necessary For Your Entrance At The Celestial Gate!
 - So - You Do Want & Lack:

- All Of These Things!

Conclusion:

1. But - What A Sad Response:
 - These Two Men Gave To Christian!
 - Instead Of Pondering His Words:
 - “Only They Looked Upon Each Other, And Laughed!”
2. And Our Christian Pilgrim:
 - Had His First Big Dose:
 - Of Reality In:
 - His New Christian Walk!
 - And So - Once Again:
 - He Was Alone On His Pilgrimage:
 - And “Had No More Talk But With Himself, And That Sometimes Sighingly And Sometimes Comfortably!”
3. As Harsh As We Can Be:
 - With These Five Characters:
 - Simple, Sloth & Presumption, Along With:
 - Formality & Hypocrisy!
 - I Think When You And I:
 - Are Humble & Honest With Ourselves:
 - We Will Sense & See:
 - Some Of Their Attitudes & Spirits:
 - Still Within Us!
 - And This Will Cause Us:
 - To Think & Talk With Ourselves:
 - As Christian Did - “Sighingly!”
4. But - What Is The Solution:
 - For Those Sighs?
 - Don't Just Look Within - But:
 - Like Christian - “Be Often Reading In The Roll” That You Have Been Given By The Lord!
 - His Word To You & His Work In You!
 - And You Will Be “Refreshed!”
 - And Remember:
 - Romans 13:11 - “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed!”

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