

# The Pilgrim's Progress

HTPC Summer 2019  
OPENING ASSEMBLY  
Week 11

# Review: Memory Verse #1

For here we have no  
lasting city, but we seek  
the city that is to come.

(Hebrews 13:14)

# Review: Memory Verse #2

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

(1 Peter 2:11)

# LEARN TODAY: Memory Verse #3

## Hebrews 11:13-16

“These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”

# The Cross

1. Jesus, You hung on the cross to take my burden from me.  
It rolled into the open tomb, and I'm forever free!  
Jesus, what You bore, was wrath that was meant for me.  
Oh, how can I describe such love as You, Lord, have for me?

2. Jesus, You hung on the cross to give me raiment so new.  
You took the rags I wore with shame, oh Savior faithful and true.  
You now call me Your own, and I gladly call You "Lord."  
And if there be any good in me, it's only because of You.

3. Jesus, You hung on the cross to put this scroll in my hand.  
You placed your mark upon my head, and now before You I stand.  
Savior, take my life, and make me what You will.  
May Your praise be ever on my tongue till my heart lies cold and still.  
May Your praise be ever on my tongue till my heart lies cold and still.

# Children's Classes Dismissal

# Christian and Hopeful Discuss Conversion

- **Christian to Hopeful: “How did you first decide to begin this pilgrimage?”**
- Hopeful: “Do you mean, how did I first come to care about my soul’s welfare?”
- **Hopeful’s beginning: his love of Vanity Fair**
  - ❖ Hedonism
  - ❖ Self-Destructiveness
  - ❖ Godlessness
- **Cause of the beginning of Hopeful’s change of heart.**
- Effectual Calling: WCF 10.1; WSC #31

## Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 31

### **Q. 31. What is effectual calling?**

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

# Christian and Hopeful Discuss Conversion

- **Hopeful comes under conviction of sin**
- Why doesn't Hopeful immediately repent: **Discussion Question #1**
- **Hopeful's immediate response: self-improvement**
  - ❖ Flight from sin
  - ❖ Flight from sinful influences
  - ❖ Engaging in spiritual exercises (prayer, reading, testifying)
- **His efforts are unsuccessful – why?** Isa. 64:6, Gal. 2:16; Ro. 7:17
- Two Examples:
  - The merchandise example
  - The “closing the gap” example

# Hopeful Faces the Burden of His Sin

- **Hopeful seeks counsel from Faithful**
- Faithful's counsel: Hopeful needs an "external righteousness"
- **Hopeful's challenges:**
  - ❖ His personal objections:
    - Christ is not willing to save me
    - I don't know how to ask for mercy
  - ❖ He has no immediate revelation of the Son by the Father
  - ❖ He must be persistent in seeking Christ
- **The Father finally reveals Christ to Hopeful for salvation. How?**
- Hopeful's new life post-conversion: **Discussion Question #5**

# Christian and Hopeful Dialogue With Ignorance

- The initiating question to Ignorance: “How is your relationship with God?” Ignorance’s confidence before God summarized:

Response By Ignorance	Counter by Christian
Positive mental activities (thoughts of God and Heaven)	Subjectivity of such thoughts – even the demons do this! Jas. 2:19
Change of desires, tastes - “leaving everything”	More subjectivity – how do you know?
My heart and life are in agreement	Still more subjectivity - do your feelings agree with the Word?

# Ignorance's Need for God's Revelation

- **Christian summarizes the problems of Ignorance's faith confession:**
  - ❖ His confidence is based on subjective feeling, not the Word
  - ❖ His justification depends not on the personal righteousness of Christ, but his own righteous thoughts and actions
  - ❖ Ignorance doesn't allow Christ to be his justifier
  - ❖ Such a faith is deceitful and results in condemnation before God
- **Christ's "righteousness not an act of grace which makes our obedience acceptable to God." (173) Imputed, not infused**
- True faith "accepts [Christ's righteousness] and under its skirt the soul is hidden and is presented spotless before God."
- Christian and Hopeful part company with Ignorance.

# Epilogue: Dialogues on Godly Fear and “Backsliding”

**Christian now discuss two important topics related to Ignorance:**

- **Godly Fear:**

- ❖ A holy and reverent fear of God that produces self-examination, reverence and a desire to “confirm your calling and election.” 2 Pet. 1:10. Distinguished by:
- ❖ A deep conviction of our own natural sinfulness;
- ❖ Grasping and clinging tightly to Christ for salvation; and
- ❖ A resulting deep reverence for God, His Word, and His ways.

- **Means of stifling Godly fear:**

- ❖ Attributing such fear to Satan
- ❖ Resisting it as a threat to faith, self-confidence, and personal righteousness

# Epilogue: Dialogues on Godly Fear and “Backsliding”

- **Backsliding:**

- ❖ A falling away from Christ after experiencing an initial awakening to personal sin and its natural consequence, and a desire to change. Mark 4:17; Heb. 3:12-14

- Distinguished by:

- ❖ Awakened conscience, unchanged mind (2 Pet. 2:22);
    - ❖ Oppressive, competing fear of man (Prov. 29:25);
    - ❖ Pride in self, our self-autonomy, and self-righteousness
    - ❖ Suppression of coming to terms with sin to avoid present misery.

# Epilogue: Dialogues on Godly Fear and “Backsliding”

- **The downward spiral of backsliding:**
  - ❖ Pulling away from God in one’s thought life;
  - ❖ Casting off the private disciplines of true religion (prayer, mortification of sin, personal Word study)
  - ❖ Shunning the company of active and zealous Christians
  - ❖ Shunning the public disciplines of true religion (public worship, fellowship)
  - ❖ Finding fault with other Christians
  - ❖ Running with a carnal, hedonistic crowd
  - ❖ Engaging in “secret and profane discussions” – catching other Christians in sin to make oneself feel better; and
  - ❖ Emerging as what one truly is – an unregenerate person.

# Closing Assembly

# He Who Would Valiant Be

1. He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

2. Who so beset him round with dismal stories  
Do but themselves confound—his strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight,  
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim.

3. Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labor night and day to be a pilgrim.