

The Pilgrims Progress
“A Hopeful Testimony”

Introduction:

1. Last Time:
 - We Had Our Shortest Reading:
 - About Christian & Hopeful’s Journey:
 - Into The “Enchanted Ground” - Where:
 - Hopeful Was Tempted To Sleep!
 - So - Christian Had A Proposal:
 - To Help Them Stay Awake:
 - And That Was To Have Some:
 - Good “Discourse!”
2. And That Discourse:
 - Begins On Page 86, Paragraph 2:
 - Where We Find Hopeful:
 - Beginning “Where God Began” With Him:
 - And Giving His Own Testimony:
 - Of Salvation!
 - Which I Want To Read It:
 - And - For The Most Part:
 - Let It Stand As It Is!
 - Read Through Page 90, Paragraph 3!
3. Tonight:
 - Want To Focus On:
 - When Hopeful Felt He Couldn’t:
 - Go To The Lord!
 - God - In His Grace - Through The Scriptures:
 - Revealed To Him That:
 - He Could Come:
 - Because He Was Invited To Come!
 - And So - In The Time We Have Left:
 - Look At:
 - Some Of The Divine Invitations:
 - For Sinners - To Come!
 - Do You Remember Your Invitation? Your Response?
4. There Are Several Invitations:
 - Offered By The Lord:
 - That Are Based On Our Greatest Needs!
 - What Are Those Needs?
 - What Do You Need To Live?
 - Food To Eat!
 - Water To Drink!
 - Rest!
 - Shelter / Home!
 - As Babies & Children - Family / Fathers / Mothers!
 - Air To Breathe!
 - But - As Souls & Not Just Bodies:
 - You Were Created For More Than Just:
 - A Physical Life!
 - But - Because Of & Ever Since:
 - The Fall Of Man Into Sin:
 - Physical Life Is All We Have - And:
 - Physical Death Is All We Have To Look Forward To!
5. Yet - God Knows Our Frame!
 - He Remembers That We Are Dust!
 - So - He Invites Dead & Dying Sinners:
 - To Find Real & Spiritual & Eternal Life:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - So - Many Times In Scripture:

- The Lord Says:
 - “Come!”
 - Which Means - To Draw Near / Move Forward / Advance With A Purpose!
- Now - Sometimes:
 - The Lord Says To Us:
 - “Come!”
 - As An Invitation!
- Other Times:
 - The Lord Says That:
 - He Will “Come” - To Us!
 - As An Offer!
- Yet - Both:
 - Bring Us Near & Close:
 - To God!
 - So:

1. For The Spiritually Hungry:

- The Lord Offers:
 - Spiritual Food & Nourishment!
 - **IE:** Even As We Need Food Physically For Strength & To Avoid Starvation!
- See This In:

- John 21:1-12 - “After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. / 2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. / 3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. / 4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. / 5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. / 6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. / 7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher’s coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. / 8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. / 9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. / 10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. / 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. / 12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord!”
- With These Words:
 - Jesus Invites Us To:
 - “Come And Dine!”
 - Not Just For Food:
 - But For Fellowship:
 - With Christ - Whose Own Flesh Is Our Meat & Which Will Sustain Us!
- This Is An Invitation:
 - To Eat!

2. For The Spiritually Thirsty:

- The Lord Offers:
 - Spiritual Drink & Refreshment!
 - **IE:** Even As We Need Water Physically! 64 oz!
- See This In:

- Isaiah 55:1-3 - “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. / 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. / 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David!”
- With These Words:
 - The Lord Invites Us To:
 - “Come Ye To The Waters!”

- For Refreshment Of Dry, Dusty Souls:
- That Are Worn Out From Their Pilgrimage In This World!

- This Is An Invitation:
 - To Drink!
 - Even As Jesus Himself Said:
 - In John 7:37 - "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink!"

3. ***For The Spiritually Weary:***

- The Lord Offers:
 - Spiritual Rest!
 - And Not The Dangerous Kind!
 - **IE:** Even As We Need Physical Rest! 8 Hours!
- See This In:
 - Matthew 11:25-30 - "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. / 26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. / 27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. / 28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. / 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. / 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!"
- With These Words:
 - Jesus Invites Us To:
 - "Come Unto Me . . . And I Will Give You Rest!"
 - A Soul Rest!
 - Because His Yoke Is Easy & His Burden Is Light:
 - Compared To The Burdens Of The Day In This World!
- This Is An:
 - Invitation To Rest!

4. ***For The Spiritually Homeless:***

- In Danger From The Storms Of Life:
 - The Lord Offers:
 - Spiritual Shelter!
 - **IE:** Even As We Need Physical Shelter From Storms!
- See This In:
 - John 14:1-6 - "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. / 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. / 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. / 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. / 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? / 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!"
- With These Words:
 - Jesus Says:
 - "I Will Come To You & Receive You!"
 - If & When:
 - You Come To The Father:
 - By & Through Him! Jesus!
- This Is An Invitation:
 - To Come Home!
 - Even As The Hymn Goes:
 - "Softly & Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling – Calling, O Sinner, Come Home!"

5. ***For The Spiritually Friendless:***

- With Noone To Look After Your Soul:
 - The Lord Offers His Own Family & Friendship:
 - To You!
 - **IE:** Even As Those Who Are Homeless & Hurting Are In Need Of Family Love!
- See This In:
 - John 14:18-23 - "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. / 19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. / 20 At that day ye shall know that I am in

my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. / 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. / 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? / 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him!”

- With These Words:

- Jesus Says That He & His Father:

- Will Make Their Abode:

- With Those Who Come!

- And - God Will Be:

- A Father To The Fatherless!

- And - Christ Will Be:

- A Friend To The Friendless!

- This Is An Invitation:

- To Love - And:

- To A Relationship Like No Other!

6. ***For The Spiritually Suffocated:***

- Without The Life-Giving Properties:

- Of Spiritual Air & Atmosphere:

- **IE:** Even As Oxygen Enlivens & Energizes Our Physical Lives - Otherwise - Life Languishes!

- Yet - In John 1:37-39:

- Jesus Offers To Change Your Life Completely:

- And - Even Change Your Purpose:

- If You Will Just:

- “Come And See!”

- “And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. / 38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? / 39 He saith unto them, Come and see!”

- This Is An Invitation:

- To Breathe In The True Breath Of Life:

- To Become - Once Again:

- A Living Soul!

Conclusion:

1. These Are Just Some Of The Invitations:

- That The Lord Gives:

- To Bring Sinners Home!

- Do You Remember:

- Your Invitation?

- The One You Responded To?

2. If So - Then:

- Tell Others About Your Invitation:

- Even As Hopeful Did:

- In His Testimony!

- Because - For Those Who Have Responded To One Of The Lord’s:

- Initial Invitations - One Day They Will Hear:

- God’s Final Invitation!

- Which Is Found In:

- Matthew 25:34 - “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!”

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