

“The Pilgrims Progress”
“What Think Ye?”
(Matthew 22:42)

Introduction:

1. Tonight:
 - As We Continue Our Year-Long Series:
 - On The Pilgrims Progress:
 - We Are Going To Get Back To:
 - A Fairly Normal Length:
 - Of Reading!
 - After The Shortest Reading:
 - A Couple Of Weeks Ago:
 - When Christian & Hopeful:
 - Entered The Sleepy Atmosphere:
 - Of “Enchanted Ground!”
 - And:
 - After The Longest Reading:
 - Last Sunday:
 - When Hopeful Shared With Christian:
 - His Personal Testimony:
 - Of God’s Invitation:
 - By Grace Through Faith In Christ Alone:
 - For His Salvation!
2. Well - As We Turn To:
 - Page 90 - We Will Find Christian & Hopeful:
 - Meeting Up Again With:
 - A Gentleman We Met Before:
 - With The Name:
 - Ignorance!
 - Who - If You Remember:
 - Came To Dislike Their Company Already:
 - But - As We Will Soon See:
 - Will Come To Like It Even Less:
 - In This Encounter!
 - So - As They Are Still:
 - Walking Along The Pathway:
 - Through The Enchanted Grounds:
 - They Found That The Best Way:
 - To Stay Alert & Awake:
 - Was By Talking About The Truth!
 - At First - Hopeful Shared:
 - The Truth Of His Personal Testimony:
 - With Christian!
 - This Time - Hopeful & Christian:
 - Will Share The Truth Of The Gospel:
 - With Ignorance!
3. So - Starting There On:
 - Page 90, Paragraph 4:
 - We Read - *“I Saw Then In My Dream That Hopeful Looked Back And Saw Ignorance, Whom They Had Left Behind, Coming After!”*
 - Read Through:
 - Page 92, Paragraph 11:
 - Ignorance: “I Believe Well Enough For All That!”
 - Christian: “How Dost Thou Believe?”
 - Now - We’ll Save:
 - The Rest Of Their Conversation:
 - About The Faith Of Ignorance:

- For Next Week!
 - But This Week:
 - I Want For Us To Consider:
 - The *Mind* Of Ignorance:
 - And What He Thought:
 - About The Truth He Heard From The Mouths Of Christian & Hopeful!
4. In Matthew 22:
- After Jesus Was Interrogated:
 - By Some Of The Main Leaders & Players:
 - Of His Time:
 - Like The Herodians & The Sadducees & The Pharisees:
 - Jesus Took The Opportunity To Ask Them:
 - A Question Of His Own!
 - And So - In Matthew 22:41-46:
 - We Read - "While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, / Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. / He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, / The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? / If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? / And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions!"
 - Of Course - The Question Jesus Asked:
 - In 22:42 Remains:
 - The Most Pivotal Question A Person Can Be Asked - And Is:
 - The Most Important Question A Person Must Answer!
 - "What Think Ye Of Christ?"

5. But - Before A Person:

 - Can Answer This Question:
 - There Are Some Other Questions:
 - That Need To Be Honestly Answered:
 - Before Their Answer About Christ:
 - Can Be Truly Life-Changing & Saving!
 - Because - As Christian & Hopeful:
 - Confronted Ignorance:
 - If You Don't Think The Good & Right Thoughts:
 - About Yourself & About God:
 - You Will Never Be Able To Come Up With The Right Answer To:
 - "What Think Ye Of Christ!"
 - So - Tonight - I Want For Us:
 - To Look At Those Two Other:
 - Very Important Questions:
 - That Must Be Answered In Your Heart:
 - In Order To Be Able To Think:
 - Good & Right Thoughts About Christ:
 - And Believe!

* The First Question - Using The Same Terms Jesus Did - Is:

1. *What Think Ye – About Yourself?*

 - It Is Clear That:
 - Ignorant Was Not Ignorant:
 - Of Spiritual Truth:
 - As A Whole!
 - In Fact - To The Ears Of Others:
 - He May Have Sounded Like:
 - A Theologian Who Was Quite Orthodox & Fundamental:
 - In His Doctrine!
 - But - The Ignorance That Ignorance Had:
 - Was More Of:
 - A Heart Ignorance:

- Than A Head Ignorance!
- And Yet - As Its Been Said:
 - The Gap Between The Head & The Heart:
 - Can Be The Furthest Distance:
 - In All The World!
- And So - He May Have:
 - *Heard* The Truth About Himself:
 - Many Times!
 - He May Have Even:
 - *Read* The Truth About Himself:
 - Many Times - In The Bible!
 - Yet - He Did Not:
 - *Believe* The Truth About Himself:
 - As *God* Knew Him & Saw Him!
- Even As John Kelman Once Described Him:
 - “Instead Of Knowing Himself, He Loves Himself And Believes In Himself!”
 - And That Difference Is The Difference:
 - Between Life & Death - And:
 - Between Heaven & Hell!
 - To Believe The Truth:
 - ***About*** Yourself:
 - Is Vastly Different Than:
 - Believing ***In*** Yourself!
 - But - In Order To Be Saved:
 - What ***Do*** You Need To Think & Know:
 - About Yourself?
 - You Need To Know About:
- The Depravity Of Your Own Heart!
 - Even As Christian Pointed Out To Ignorance:
 - Through The Word Of God!
 - Romans Makes It Perfectly Clear:
 - That Every Person Is A Sinner:
 - Separated From The God!
 - In Romans 3 - The Apostle Paul:
 - Quotes & Expounds From The Old Testament:
 - Starting In 3:10-18, 23 - “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: / There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. / They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. / Their throat [is] an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps [is] under their lips: / Whose mouth [is] full of cursing and bitterness: / Their feet [are] swift to shed blood: / Destruction and misery [are] in their ways: / And the way of peace have they not known: / There is no fear of God before their eyes!” / “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God!”
 - This Is The True Nature:
 - Of Man! This Is What God:
 - Not Only *Sees* In Us - But:
 - This Is What God:
 - *Knows* About Us!
 - But - Is This How:
 - You See Yourself:
 - Apart From God?
 - As Blaise Pascal Once Wrote:
 - “There Are Two Kinds Of Men: The Righteous, Who Believe Themselves Sinners, And The Sinners, Who Believe Themselves Righteous!”
 - And Only One Is True!
 - And That’s Why:
 - You Also Need To Know About:
 - The Deceitfulness Of Your Own Heart!

- One Of The Problems Ignorance Had:
 - Was His Unwillingness To:
 - Admit To & Believe In:
 - Just How Sinful & Depraved He Was!
- He Even Told Christian:
 - “I Will Never Believe That My Heart Is Thus Bad!”
 - And That Is The Obstacle:
 - That Prevents So Many:
 - From Thinking Right About Christ & Believing In Him!
- So - Instead:
 - Ignorance Will Believe In & Follow:
 - What His Own Heart Tells Him:
 - Instead Of What:
 - God Tells Him In His Word!
 - He Even Feels Like:
 - He Will Get To Heaven Because:
 - He Said - “My Heart Tells me So!”
 - And Yet - What Does God’s Word:
 - Say About His & Our Hearts:
 - Apart From God?
- Jeremiah 17:9-10 - “The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it? / I the LORD search the heart, [I] try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings!”
 - If You Listen To & Believe In & Follow:
 - Your Own Human Heart:
 - You Will Be Led Astray!
- And So - When You Measure:
 - Yourself By Your Own Heart:
 - Or Even Your Own:
 - Feelings & Passions & Hopes & Aspirations & Experiences:
 - If They Are Not Grounded In The Word Of God:
 - You Are Setting Yourself Up For Spiritual Failure:
 - Because You Are Believing Lies!
- This Past Week:
 - I Heard About A Woman:
 - Who Was A Professing Christian & A Self-Described Presbyterian Pastor:
 - Who Wrote An Article About Abortion & The Recent Laws Enacted To Restrict It!
 - And - She Was Writing:
 - *For* Abortion - Not *Against* It!
 - In The USA Today Article:
 - She Declared That She Had *Two* Abortions!
 - But - Instead Of Seeing Them As The Moral Evil That They Are:
 - According To The Word Of God:
 - She Described Them As:
 - “Morally Good!” - She Wrote - “Guided By Christian Principles That Promote Abundant Life, Seek Justice And Recognize The Human Dignity Of Women, The Decision To End A Pregnancy Can Be A Morally Good Decision!” / “And In A World Where The Dominant Christian Voices Insist That Abortion Is Morally Wrong, It Is Time For Those Christians Who Believe Otherwise To Say Loudly And Clearly That Abortion Can Be A Moral Good!”
- This Is What Spiritual Ignorance Looks / Sounds Like!
 - Its When You Believe In & Follow:
 - Your *Own* Heart:
 - Instead Of The Word Of God!
 - And That Is A Very:
 - And Eternally - Dangerous Place To Be!
 - Because - “The Heart Is Deceitful And Desperately Wicked: Who Can Know

It?"

- Only God!

- And So - What Think Ye:

- About Yourself?

- You Will Never See Your Need For Christ:

- If You Do Not See Yourself:

- With A Depraved & Deceitful Heart:

- Apart From Him!

- And - This Must Be:

- Part Of Our Witness:

- Even As It Was For:

- Christian & Hopeful:

- No Matter How Offensive It Might Be!

- But Then - A Second Question:

- Must Be Asked & Answered:

- According To The Revealed Truth:

- Of God's Word!

2. ***What Think Ye – About God?***

- This Too Is Important:

- Because - A God Of Your Own Making Or Choosing:

- Is No God At All!

- Instead - Its An Idol!

- I Find It Interesting That:

- In The Conversation We Just Read:

- It Was *Ignorance*:

- Who Brought Up The Topic Of God - Not Christian Or Hopeful!

- He Asked:

- "What Are Good Thoughts Concerning God?"

- Probably Because - He Didn't Want To Think Any More About:

- What God Thought About Him!

- Of Course:

- There Were Many Attributes Of God:

- That Bunyan Could Have Touched On:

- But - There Are Two Main Ones:

- That Are Necessary To Believe:

- Before You Can Turn To & Trust In Christ!

- The Perfection Of God:

- And His Holiness!

- God Is Entirely & Perfectly Holy!

- As The Writer Of Hebrews Tells Us About Jesus In:

- Hebrews 7:26 - "For such an high priest became us, [who is] holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens!"

- In Isaiah - We Learn That:

- God Is A Thrice-Holy God!

- Isaiah 6:3 - "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, [is] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [is] full of his glory!"

- And So:

- As Hebrews 12:14 Tells Us:

- Without Holiness:

- "No Man Shall See The Lord!"

- Yet - Our Problem:

- Is Constantly Making God:

- Conform To Our Own Image & Likeness:

- Even As They Did:

- In The Pagan Temples Of Greece & Rome!

- Yet - "What Think Ye – About God?"

- When You Truly See & Believe:

- In The Holiness Of God:
 - You Will Ever See & Think About Yourself In The Same Terms As The Apostle Paul:
 - In Romans 7:24-25 - "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"
 - Yet Where Does He Find Comfort?
 - 7:25 - "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
- To Think About Christ Right:
 - You Must First Think Right & Believe Right:
 - About Yourself & God!
 - And - These Are The Kinds Of Thoughts:
 - That Are Good Thoughts!
 - Ken Puls - "Good Thoughts Are Not Necessarily Thoughts About Pleasant Things; Good Thoughts Are Thoughts That Reflect The Truth Of God's Word!"
- You Also Need To See & Believe In:
 - The Truth About:
- The Perception Of God!
 - And That He - As Christian Put It:
 - "Knows Us Better Than We Know Ourselves!"
 - And That He - "Can See Sin In Us When & Where We Can See None In Ourselves!"
 - This Describes The Omniscience Of God!
 - Psalm 139:1-6 - "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known [me]. / Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. / Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted [with] all my ways. / For [there is] not a word in my tongue, [but], lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. / Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. / [Such] knowledge [is] too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot [attain] unto it!"
- So - What Think Ye:
 - About God?
 - You Will Never See Your Need For A Christ:
 - If You Do Not See The Lord:
 - "High & Lifted Up" As An Infinitely Perfect & Perceptive God!
 - And - This Too Must Be:
 - Part Of Our Witness:
 - Even As It Was For:
 - Christian & Hopeful!

Conclusion:

1. One Of The Problems That Ignorance Had:
 - Was That He Believed:
 - His Thoughts Were:
 - "Good Thoughts" - Even Though:
 - They Were His *Own* Thoughts:
 - About Himself & About God!
 - But - As Christian Pointed Out To Him:
 - The Only Good Thought:
 - There Can Be:
 - Is A Thought That Conforms To:
 - The Truth Of God's Word!
 - Because - If Something:
 - Is Not True:
 - Can It Really Be:
 - Good?
2. And - Because Of Ignorance's Ignorance:
 - About The Truth:
 - Of Himself & God:
 - He Could Not Answer Correctly:
 - The Question:

- “What Think Ye Of Christ?”
- And - Neither Could He Believe In Him:
 - With Saving Faith:
 - Which Is What We Will Look At:
 - Next Week!
- 3. But - Even At The Very Beginning:
 - Of Their Conversation:
 - Christian & Hopeful Could Tell:
 - What Ignorance Thought About Christ!
 - Because:
 - When They First Asked Him:
 - “How Stands It Between God And Your Soul Now?”
 - Remember His Answer?
 - “I *Hope* Well!”
- 4. Oh How Different This Is:
 - Than The Answer:
 - “It *Is* Well!” - “It Is *Well* With My Soul!”
 - That Can Come From A Heart:
 - That Knows The Truth About Itself & About God:
 - And That Christ Alone Can Bridge The Mighty Gulf:
 - Between Us!
 - William Mason:
 - “Divine Teaching Causes A Christian To See, Know, And Feel, The Worst Of Himself, That He May Glory Of Nothing In Or Of Himself, But That All His Glorifying Should Be Of What Precious Christ Is To Him, And What He Is In Christ!”
 - 5. What Think Ye - Tonight:
 - About Yourself & About God?
 - These Will Reveal:
 - What You Think About Christ!

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