

***“The Pilgrims Progress”***  
***“A Fantastical Faith”***  
***(Galatians 2:16)***

**Introduction:**

1. Tonight:
  - In Our Series Through The Pilgrims Progress:
    - We Turn Again To:
      - Their Walk Through:
        - The Enchanted Ground!
  - Where - If You Remember:
    - Christian & Hopeful:
      - Were In Conversation With & Witnessing To:
        - A Man Who Was Truly Ignorant:
          - Of His Most Pressing Need:
            - Of The Gospel!
2. Last Week:
  - Christian & Hopeful:
    - Confronted Him With:
      - The Ignorance Of:
        - His Knowledge About:
          - The Truth!
      - Because He Didn't Understand:
        - The Truth About:
          - His Own Nature:
            - As A Sinner - Or:
              - God's Nature:
                - Of Holiness!
  - And - Since:
    - He Didn't See:
      - His Need For Jesus:
        - As His Savior:
          - It Would Be Impossible For Him:
            - To Believe In Jesus:
              - As His Savior!
3. And That Leads Us To:
  - The Rest Of Their Conversation:
    - Where Christian & Hopeful Then:
      - Confront Him With:
        - The Ignorance Of:
          - His Faith!
    - As Christian Will Describe It In Our Reading Tonight:
      - The Faith Of Ignorance:
        - Was A “Fantastical” Faith!
          - This Didn't Mean That:
            - It Was Fantastic - But That:
              - It Was A Fantasy:
                - With No Basis In The Truth!
  - And - The Reason Christian:
    - Could Even Question:
      - The Faith Of Ignorance:
        - Is Because Of What We Find In:
          - Galatians 2:16 - “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified!”
4. Justification:
  - Which Means That:

- You Are Declared To Be - And:
    - Accounted Right With God:
      - Can Only Come Through:
        - Faith Alone In Christ Alone!
        - Not - Faith Plus Anything!
  - And This Is What:
    - Christian & Hopeful Expose:
      - About Ignorance's So-Called Faith!
      - His "Fantastical" Faith!
4. And So - Beginning On:
- *Page 92, Paragraph 12* - Christian Again Asks Ignorance:
    - "*How Dost Thou Believe?*"
      - Read Through *Page 94, Paragraph 3*:
        - "*But If Thou Yet Shalt Slight It, Thou Wilt Be / The Loser (Ignorance) I'll Warrant Thee!*"
  - Even Though:
    - This Is The Last Time Our Pilgrims:
      - Talk With Ignorance:
        - This Will Not Be The Last Time:
          - We Hear About Ignorance!
    - Because - Even Though He:
      - Uses The Language Of Salvation:
        - The Sad Reality Is That:
          - He Will Miss The Truth Of Salvation:
            - In The End!
5. So - What Are Some Of The Lessons We Can Learn:
- About True, Saving Faith:
    - Through This Conversation?
      - What Is Bunyan Trying To Tell Us?
- \* First - Through:
1. ***The Confession Of His Faith!***
- When Christian Asked Ignorance:
    - "How Dost Thou Believe?"
      - Did You Catch The Subtle Error:
        - In His Answer?
  - At First - He Sounded:
    - Very Orthodox!
      - He Says - "I Believe That Christ Died For Sinners!"
        - But - What Kind Of Belief:
          - Did He Have?
    - Was It A:
      - General Belief - Or:
        - Was It A:
          - Personal Belief:
            - That Applied Christ's Death To Himself?
    - Well - As We Already Saw Last Time:
      - He Didn't Believe Himself To Be:
        - The Kind Of Sinner:
          - God Saw Him To Be!
            - With A Completely Depraved & Deceitful Heart!
    - So - At Best - His Faith Was:
      - A Superficial Faith!
        - One In Which He Just Parroted:
          - What He Might Have Heard:
            - In Sunday School Or From A Church Service He Once Attended!
      - True Faith Doesn't Consist:
        - Merely In What You ***Say*** You Believe:

- But What You *Truly* Believe:
  - In Your Heart!
- But Then - He Even Sounded:
  - Quite Theological - As A Student Doctrine & The Scriptures!
    - He Says - "And That I Shall Be Justified Before God From The Curse!"
    - And - As We Will See In The Rest Of Our Story:
      - This Is Something That Ignorance Really Believed To Be True!
  - So - His Faith Was:
    - A Sincere Faith!
      - But - As The Rest Of His Answer Reveals:
        - He Was Sincerely Wrong:
          - About The Nature Of Saving Faith!
            - Because:
- He Then Reveals That Whatever Faith He Did Have:
  - Was In Another Gospel!
    - He Said - "I Shall Be Justified Before God From The Curse, Through His Gracious Acceptance Of My Obedience To His Law!"
  - With This Statement - He Aligned His Faith With:
    - The Roman Catholic Doctrine Of Justification:
      - "If Any One Saith, That Justifying Faith Is Nothing Else But Confidence In The Divine Mercy Which Remits Sins For Christ's Sake; Or, That This Confidence Alone Is That Whereby We Are Justified: Let Him Be Anathema!" (1547 / Council Of Trent)
  - So - The Problem With The Faith Of Ignorance Was That:
    - It Was A Subjective Faith:
      - Since It Was Focused More:
        - On His Righteousness:
          - Than The Righteousness Of Jesus Christ Alone!
- And With This Subtle Shift:
  - In His Confession Of Faith:
    - He Made Christ:
      - Only "Half" A Savior:
        - And As A Result:
          - No Savior At All!
  - Because - Again:
    - According To Galatians 2:16:
      - Jesus Christ Did Not Come:
        - Just To Help You:
          - Only To Fill Up What You Were Missing:
            - So That You Might Be Right With God!
    - No - Jesus Christ Came:
      - To Save You:
        - Because Nothing You Could Ever Do Could Make You:
          - Right With God!
- Galatians 2:16 - "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified!"
  - This Was The Problem With The Faith Of Ignorance:
    - And What Made It:
      - A "Fantastical" Faith!
        - And That Is Why We Then Read About:

## 2. ***The Confrontation Of His Faith:***

- By Christian!
  - He Explains To Ignorance That:
    - The Kind Of Faith He Had Was:
- A Weak Faith:
  - Because It Was Not Founded & Grounded On:
    - A Firm Foundation:

- The Foundation Of God's Word!
- There Was No Basis:
  - For His Kind Of Faith:
    - In Scripture!
- And Yet - As Romans 10:17 Tells Us:
  - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!"
- This Is The Source Of Saving Faith!
  - But His Kind Of Faith Was Also:
- A Worthless Faith:
  - Because It Was Grounded On:
    - His Own Works Of Righteousness:
      - Instead Of Christ's Works Of Righteousness!
  - The Good News Of The Gospel Is That:
    - The Righteousness:
      - Of Christ's Obedient Life:
        - And:
      - The Righteousness:
        - Of Christ's Sacrificial Death:
          - Is Imputed To The Account Of Sinners:
            - Who Flee To Him & Believe In Him Alone!
  - This Is What We Find In:
    - Romans 4:5-8 - "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. / Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, / Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. / Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin!"
  - This Is The Nature Of Saving Faith!
    - But His Kind Of Faith Was Also:
- A Wily Faith:
  - Because It Is Deceitful:
    - And Leads All Kinds Of People:
      - To The Wrath Of God:
        - Instead Of His Mercy!
  - As The Apostle Paul Wrote:
    - In Philippians 3:9 - For True Salvation:
      - A Sinner Must - "Be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith!"
- Now - This Does Not Mean That:
  - You Have To Understand:
    - All The Details & Theological Nuances About:
      - Justification By Faith!
    - But It Does Mean:
      - That You Must "Fly For Refuge Unto Christ's Righteousness!"
        - Leaving All Of Your Own:
          - Behind!
      - Even As Augustus Toplady Once Wrote:
        - "Nothing In My Hands I Bring, Simply To Thy Cross I Cling!"
          - Because - The Only Thing You & I Can Contribute To:
            - The Salvation Equation:
              - Is The Debits Of Our Sin!
  - In His Commentary On The Pilgrim's Progress:
    - Ken Puls Puts It This Way:
      - "Our justification rests solely upon the person and work of Christ. God takes the guilt of our sin and places it on (or imputes it to) Christ, so that Christ is treated as we deserve to be treated. We deserve the wrath and condemnation of God; we deserve death. Though Christ was (and still is) perfect and holy, He died for us on the cross, paying our debt and bearing God's wrath for us that we might live. This is God's wondrous mercy! But there is more! God takes the perfect righteousness of Christ and places it on (or imputes it to) us, so that we are treated as Christ deserves to be treated—as sons and daughters. Though we

are sinners (and continue to struggle with sin even as Christians) we are regarded as perfect and holy. We are clothed in Christ's righteousness and stand acceptable before God, not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done. Because of Christ, we are purified, cleansed, forgiven, accepted, and made right with God. Christ's perfect life of obedience and sacrificial death on the cross, purchased this for us. He is the only hope for sinners to be rescued from sin and the dire consequences of sin!"

- But - How Does This Kind Of:
  - Saving & Justifying Faith:
    - Even Come About?
- Well - This Is What Hopeful Brought Up:
  - When He Wanted To Ask Ignorance About:

### 3. *The Condition Of His Faith!*

- Hopeful Asked Christian To See If:
  - Ignorance - "Ever Had Christ Revealed To Him From Heaven!"
    - And This - Like Nothing Else:
      - Set Ignorance Off!
  - Because The Question Had To Do:
    - With God's Exclusive & Sovereign Work:
      - In The Salvation Of Souls!
  - Because - Saving Faith:
    - Is Not & Has Never Been:
      - Just A Logical Or Mental Assent:
        - To The Truth!
    - No - It Is A Spiritual Awakening:
      - To The Truth:
        - Brought About By God!
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14 - "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned!"
    - So - In Order For You To Believe In The Truth:
      - God Must Quicken You To That Faith!
        - This Is Essential Because:
- According To The Scriptures:
  - The Natural Man:
    - Is Spiritually Dead!
      - But Ignorance Was Ignorant Of This Truth!
  - So Ignorant That He Believed:
    - He Could Come To Christ:
      - And Receive Life:
        - On His Own!
  - But - What Did Jesus Say?
    - John 6:44 - "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day!"
      - You Can Only Come:
        - When God Himself:
          - Draws You To Himself:
            - Through His Word & Through His Spirit!
- According To The Scriptures:
  - The Natural Man:
    - Is Also Spiritually Blind!
      - But Ignorance Was Also Ignorant Of This Truth!
  - So Ignorant That He Believed:
    - He Could Comprehend Christ:
      - And Receive Light:
        - On His Own!
  - But - What Did Jesus Say?
    - Matthew 11:27 - "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!"

- You Can Only Comprehend:
  - The Gospel When:
    - God Himself Turns On The Light:
      - In Your Heart!
- Also - According To The Scriptures:
  - The Natural Man:
    - Is Spiritually In Bondage!
      - And Ignorant Was Ignorant Of This Truth Too!
  - So Ignorant That He Believed:
    - He Could Make The Choice:
      - To Be Free From His Sinful Nature:
        - On His Own!
  - But - What Did Jesus Say?
    - John 15:16 - "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you!"
      - You Can Only Chose & Love Christ:
        - Because He First Chose & Loved You!
- This Is A Hard Truth:
  - That A Natural Man Like Ignorance:
    - Cannot Receive - That "No Man Can Know Jesus Christ But By The Revelation Of The Father!"
      - But - This Truth Proves:
        - Beyond Any Doubt:
          - That Salvation Is Of The Lord - And Of The Lord Alone!

**Conclusion:**

1. But - This Does Not Take Away:
  - From Ignorance - Or - From Anyone Else:
    - Their Responsibility:
      - To Respond In Faith:
        - To The Calls & Invitations:
          - They Are Given!
  - This Is Why:
    - For One Last Time:
      - Christian Invites Ignorance To Christ:
        - By Saying - "Be Awakened Then! See Thine Own Wretchedness, And Fly to The Lord Jesus! And By His Righteousness . . . Thou Shalt Be Delivered From Condemnation!"
2. A Fantastical Faith:
  - Believes That You Can Answer This Call:
    - On Your Own!
  - On The Other Hand:
    - Saving Faith:
      - Is Like Waving The White Flag Of Surrender:
        - To Jesus Christ & His Righteousness:
          - And Crying Out:
            - "Lord, I Believe! Help Thou Mine Unbelief!"
  - 3. This Is What Saving Faith Is Like!
    - Make Sure Your Faith:
      - Is Not A Fantastical Faith!

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