

**“The Pilgrims Progress”**  
**The Palace Beautiful**  
**(Pages 25b-29)**

**Introduction:**

1. The Last Time We Were With Our Pilgrim:
  - In Our Quest:
    - Through The Pilgrims Progress:
      - We Found Him - **Finally**:
        - At The Top Of:
          - The Hill Of Difficulty!
  - If You Recall:
    - When He Fell Asleep In The Arbor:
      - About Half-Way Up That Hill:
        - He Lost His Roll Of Assurance:
          - As It Tumbled Out Of His Pocket!
2. Well - With God’s Help:
  - He Found It Again:
    - Through The Gifts Of:
      - Repentance And Forgiveness:
        - From The Lord!
  - And - Once Again:
    - He Was On The Right Path!
      - But - One Of The Consequences:
        - Of His Slothfulness:
          - Was That It Was Starting To Get Dark!
    - And - When He Remembered:
      - The Two Lions:
        - That Timorous & Mistrust Told Him About:
          - Once Again, He Was Afraid!
3. On Page 25, At The End Of The First Paragraph:
  - We Hear Christian’s Lament:
    - *“Then Said Christian To Himself Again, These Beasts Range In The Night For Their Pray; And If They Should Meet With Me In The Dark, How Should I Shift Them? How Should I Escape Being By Them Torn In Pieces? Thus He Went On His Way! But While He Was Thus Bewailing His Unhappy Miscarriage, He Lift Up His Eyes, And Behold There Was A Very Stately Palace Before Him, The Name Of Which Was Beautiful; And It Stood Just By The Highway Side!”*
  - This “Palace Beautiful” Is:
    - The Church!
      - The Visible & Local Body Of Christ:
        - That God Has Given His People:
          - To Help Them On Their Journey!
6. Now - Christian:
  - Will Spend Quite A Bit Of Time:
    - In This Palace - And So Will We:
      - As We Read Through It Together!
  - So - Even Though Our Reading Will Be A Bit Longer Tonight:
    - Be Sure To Think About These Words:
      - In Terms Of The Church! And Especially Our Church!
  - As We Continue On Page 25, Paragraph 2:
    - *“So I Saw In My Dream That He Made Haste And Went Forward, That If Possible He Might Get Lodging There!”*
    - Read Through End Of Page 29:
      - *“Thou Hast Delivered Thy Soul From Their Blood!”*
7. Next Week:
  - We Will Conclude Our Visit With Christian:
    - At The Palace Beautiful!
  - But - I Want Us To See Tonight:

- Through Bunyan's Description Of The Church:
    - Just What Our Church:
      - Is Meant To *Be!*
  - In The Book Of Ephesians:
    - The Apostle Paul:
      - Also Describes The Church:
        - Using Illustrations!
          - Let's Open Our Bibles There!
    - In Ephesians 2:
      - The Church Is Described As:
        - A New Building - The "Household Of God!"
      - 2:19-22 - "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; / And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; / In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: / In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit!"
8. So - A "Beautiful Palace" Is:
- An Appropriate Picture:
    - Of What God Designed:
      - His Church To Be!
        - Not Just A House:
          - But A True Home:
            - For Weary Christian Pilgrims!
  - And This Is What:
    - John Bunyan Truly Felt:
      - About His Own Church:
        - In Bedford, England!
          - When He First Became A Member There & When He Became Its Pastor!
      - He Truly Loved His Church!
  - Now - His Church Was:
    - What Was Known At That Time As:
      - A "Non-Conformist Church!"
        - Which Meant That:
          - It Was Not A Part Of The Official Church Of England!
    - Instead - The Bedford Church:
      - Was An Independent, Autonomous Church:
        - Which Was Made Up With Members:
          - Who Made A Profession Of Faith & Were Baptized After Their Conversion!
9. John Bunyan's Church Was:
- A Baptist Church!
    - And Much Of What We Read:
      - About Christian In The Palace Beautiful:
        - Would Have Been Bunyan's Experience!
    - He Would Have Been Interviewed:
      - By The Pastor Of The Church:
        - Which At The Time Was:
          - John Gifford!
    - He Would Have Been Interviewed:
      - By Another Leader In The Church:
        - Like An Elder Or A Deacon!
      - And Then - Upon The Recommendation Of Those Leaders:
        - And The Approval Of The Members:
          - Like Christian - They Would Have "Him Into The Family!"
            - And Become One Of Them!
    - But - This Was All Done:
      - In Great Tenderness!
        - As Seen In The Reaction Of Discretion:
          - When She Heard Christian's Testimony!

- “She Smiled, But The Water Stood In Her Eyes!”

- But - This Was Also Done:

- According To “The Law Of The House!”

- Because In The Church:

- Things Are To Be “Done Decently And In Order!” (1 Corinthians 14:40)

10. And So - In The Time We Have Left:

- I Would Like For Us To See:

- Through The Characters Christian Meets:

- At The Palace Beautiful:

- What The Church Is To **Be!** And:

- What Our Church Is To **Be!**

\* First - The Church Is To Be:

**I. A Place Of Security!**

- A Place Of Security:

- For True Believers & Followers Of Jesus Christ!

- This Is What We Learn From:

- Christian’s Interviews With:

- The Porter - Whose Name:

- Was Watchful! And:

- Discretion!

- Watchful:

- Who Represents The Pastor Of This Church:

- Strives For The Security:

- Of The Convert!

- The New Or The Wandering Pilgrim!

- In 2 Timothy 4:5:

- The Apostle Paul Told Timothy To:

- “Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry!”

- And So - Watchful:

- Was On The Look-Out:

- To Offer Help & Hope:

- For Pilgrims Like Christian:

- Who Needed “Relief And Security!”

- And - Whenever Possible:

- Invite Them Into The Family!

- Discretion:

- Who Represents Other Leaders In The Church:

- Strives For The Security:

- Of The Congregation!

- In 1 Timothy 3:15:

- The Apostle Told Timothy:

- The Reason Why He Wrote The Letter To Him In The First Place!

- “That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth!”

- And So - Discretion:

- Was On The Look-Out:

- For “Wolves” In “Sheep’s Clothing” That Might Try To Infiltrate:

- And Not Spare The Flock!

- And - This Is Part:

- Of The Purpose Of The Church!

- It Is To Be A Place Of Security!

- Now - This Does Not Mean That The Church:

- Is Made Up Of:

- People In Perfect Holiness!

- Instead - It Means The Church:

- Is Made Up Of:

- People In Pursuit Of Holiness!
- And That Leads To:
  - Three More Interviews With Christian!
  - Not To Admit Him:
    - Into The Church!
  - But To Help Him:
    - As Part Of The Church!
- And In His First Interview - We Learn That:

\* The Church Is Also To Be:

**2. *A Place Of Stirring!***

- A Place Of Stirring:
  - Where Christians Stir Each Other Up:
    - To Greater Devotion:
      - To The Lord!
  - This Is What The Questions:
    - Of Piety Indicate!
      - The First Question She Asked Christian:
        - Was - "What Moved You?"
- Piety Wanted Christian:
  - To Remember Everything:
    - That God Did For Him:
      - To Get Him To The Place:
        - Where He Is Now!
  - To Remember:
    - The Amazing Grace Of God!
      - And - As John Newton Once Wrote:
        - "Tis Grace Hath Brought Me Safe Thus Far, And Grace Will Lead Me Home!"
- The Church Is Meant To Be A Place:
  - Where We Help Each Other:
    - "Grow In Grace, And In The Knowledge Of Our Lord And Savior, Jesus Christ!" (2 Peter 3:18)

\* The Church Is Also To Be:

**3. *A Place Of Sanctification!***

- A Place Of Sanctification:
  - Where Christians Stir Each Other Up:
    - To Greater Holiness:
      - For The Lord!
  - This Is What The Questions:
    - Of Prudence Indicate!
      - The First Question She Asked Christian:
        - Was - "Do You Not Think?"
- Prudence Wanted Christian:
  - To Think Deeply:
    - About His Condition Before The Lord!
      - Not Just His Past:
        - But His Present!
  - She Wanted Him:
    - To Examine Himself:
      - And His Ongoing Weakness!
  - She Did This So That He Could Better:
    - Hebrews 12:1 - "Lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [him]!"
  - And - So That He Might Become:
    - More And More "Holy In All Manner Of Conversation!" (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- The Church Is Meant To Be A Place:
  - Where We Help Each Other:
    - Grow In Holiness & Sanctification!
- Now - How Do We Do This?

- I Think Bunyan Gave Us A Good Hint:
  - When He Told Us What Gave Christian:
    - Those “Golden Hours” Of Peace:
      - From His “Inward And Carnal Cogitations!” (Page 28)
- Prudence Asked Christian:
  - *“Can You Remember By What Means You Find Your Annoyances, At Times, As If They Were Vanquished?”*
- Remember Christian’s Answer:
  - *“Yes; When I Think What I Saw At The Cross, That Will Do It! And When I Look Upon My Broidered Coat, That Will Do It! Also When I Loo Into The Roll That I Carry In My Bosom, That Will Do It! And When My Thoughts Wax Warm About Whither I Am Going, That Will Do It!”*
- We Need To Remember That:
  - Thinking On These Things Will Still “Do It!”
    - For Christians Who Are Struggling With Their Peace!
  - We Need To Keep Reminding Each Other:
    - Of The Cross!
    - Of Our Coat!
    - Of Our Comfort & Assurance!
    - Of Our City & Home & Hope!
    - Those Will Do It!

\* The Church Is Also To Be:

**4. A Place Of Sympathy!**

- A Place Of Sympathy:
  - Where Christians Stir Each Other Up:
    - To Greater Love:
      - For Others!
  - This Is What The Questions:
    - Of Charity Indicate!
      - The First Question She Asked Christian:
        - Was - “Have You A Family?”
- Charity Wanted Christian:
  - To Make Sure:
    - He Never Forgot About The Ones:
      - Who Were Left Behind!
        - Even If It Was Of Their Own Choosing!
  - She Wanted Christian:
    - To Have The Same Kind Of Heart For Others:
      - That His Savior Had & Has:
        - For Him!
    - As Peter Describes It:
      - In 2 Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance!”
- The Church Is Meant To Be A Place:
  - Where We Help Each Other:
    - Grow In Our Love:
      - For The Lost!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - Even Though No Church Is Perfect!
  - It Is Still To Be A Place:
    - Where We:
      - “Consider One Another To Provoke Unto Love And To Good Works!” (Hebrews 10:25)
2. So - Yes:
  - Our Church Needs To Be:
    - A Place Of Christian Security!
  - But It Also Needs To Be:

- A Place Of Christian:
  - Stirring, Sanctification, And Sympathy!
- 3. Where We Help Each Other:
  - Turn Our Hearts:
    - Upward - In Love To The Lord! And:
    - Outward - In Love For The Lost!

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