

***“The Pilgrims Progress”
Against Wind And Tide***

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday:
 - In Our Series Through The Pilgrims Progress:
 - We Lost One Of Our Pilgrims:
 - **At** Vanity Fair:
 - When Faithful Was Executed:
 - For His Stance For Christ!
 - But - At The Same Time:
 - We Gained Another Pilgrim:
 - **From** Vanity Fair:
 - Because Of The Light & Testimony:
 - Of Faithful!
2. So - As Christian - Our Original Pilgrim:
 - Continues His Journey To The Celestial City:
 - He Is Joined By Hopeful!
 - And - As Bunyan So Beautifully Put It:
 - “Thus, One Died To Bear Testimony To The Truth, And Another Rises Out Of His Ashes, To Be A Companion With Christian In His Pilgrimage!”
3. This Experience Has Been Observed:
 - From The Earliest Times:
 - So That A Christian Theologian:
 - By The Name Of Tertullian (155-220) Could Say:
 - “The Blood Of The Martyrs Is The Seed Of The Church!”
 - And How True & Even Prophetic:
 - His Observation Has Proven To Be:
 - Even Until Today!
4. And So - As Christian & Hopeful:
 - Pick Up The Journey Together:
 - It Doesn’t Take Long:
 - For Them To Be Confronted - Once Again:
 - By Those Infected With:
 - The Spirit Of This World!
 - And - They Meet Up With:
 - Four Men:
 - Who Will Attempt To Sway:
 - Their Single-Minded & Single-Hearted Focus:
 - On The Lord!
 - And The First Person They Meet With:
 - Is Mr. By-Ends - Who We Read About:
 - Starting On *Page 60, Paragraph 6:*
 - “So I Saw That *Quickly After They Were Got Out Of The Fair, They Overtook One That Was Going Before Them, Whose Name Was By-Ends!*”
 - Read Through *Page 65, Paragraph 1:*
 - “So they Came Up To Each Other, And After A Short Salutation, Mr. Hold-The-World Propounded The Question To Christian And His Fellow, And Bid Them To Answer It If They Could!”
 - We Will End Our Reading There:
 - But Will Pick Up With The Rest Of The Story:
 - In A Couple Of Weeks!
5. But For Tonight:
 - I Would Like Us To Open Our Bibles Up First To:
 - 2 Corinthians 1 - Where - In 1:12:
 - The Apostle Paul Says:
 - “For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation

in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward!”

6. Here - Paul Reminds The Corinthian Church:
 - How He Sought To Live His Life:
 - Before The Lord & Before The World!
 - Really - In Three Ways!
 - First - In A Simple Way!
 - “In Simplicity!”
 - “Simplicity” Here Describes Something That Is Not All Tangled Up!
 - Instead - Paul Sought To Live:
 - A Life For The Lord:
 - Without Distraction!
 - Without Deception!
 - And With One Direction!
 - With Pure Motives!
 - Second - In A Sincere Way!
 - “Godly Sincerity!”
 - In An Open & A Transparent Way:
 - With Nothing To Hide!
 - He Sought To:
 - “Walk In The Light, As He Is In The Light!” (1 John 1:7)
 - Third - In A Submissive Way!
 - “Not With Fleshly Wisdom, But By The Grace Of God!”
 - Paul Knew That He Had To Rest In & Rely Upon:
 - God’s Grace:
 - And Not His Own Wisdom:
 - In Order To Have This Testimony!
7. Well - This Should Be The Testimony:
 - Of All Christian Pilgrims!
 - Even If & When Others:
 - Might Consider You To Be:
 - “Of The Stricter Sort” - Or Even:
 - Call You Too “Rigid!”
 - As Christian & Hopeful Were Called!
 - The Truth Is:
 - The Kind Of Christianity That We Find In The New Testament:
 - Is Both A Strict & A Rigid Christianity!
 - As Christian Pointed Out:
 - It Often Goes “Against Wind And Tide!”
 - **IE:** Like Rowing Against The Current, And Often Feeling Like You Are Getting Nowhere! Canoe!
8. But - This Is Not How:
 - Mr. By-Ends & His Child-Hood Friends:
 - Felt About The Christian Life!
 - They Saw Christianity:
 - As A Means To Their Own:
 - Selfish & Carnal Ends!
 - And - By Using These Four Men:
 - I Think Bunyan Wants To Remind Us:
 - Of The Strong Winds & Tides Of This World:
 - That All Too Often:
 - Distract Us From Following After Christ:
 - “In Simplicity And Godly Sincerity!”
 - As Well As “Singleness” Of Heart & Mind!

* Mr. By-Ends Reminds Us Of The Dangers Of:

1. *The Possessions Of This World!*

- Mr. By-Ends Was Given His Name By Bunyan:
 - To Express The Purpose & End:

- He Had In Mind:
 - For Walking That Pilgrim Pathway:
 - As A Nominal Christian!
 - That Is - A Christian - Most Likely:
 - In Name Only!
 - To Him - Christianity:
 - Was A “Means” To An End!
 - But - The End Was:
 - His End!
- And We Saw This:
 - In The Questions He Posed:
 - To His Companions!
- The Question About The Minister:
 - Was All About:
 - Getting More Of The Possessions Of This World:
 - Under The Guise Of:
 - Following The Door Of Opportunities:
 - Opened To Him By The Providence Of God!
 - And - All He Had To Do Was:
 - Alter & Change:
 - Just “Some Of His Principles!”
 - But Also:
- The Question About The Tradesman:
 - Was All About:
 - Getting More Of The Possessions Of This World:
 - “By Becoming Religious!”
 - And If He Just:
 - Added A Little Bit Of Religion:
 - To The Recipe Of His Relatively Good Life:
 - He Could Get A “Good Wife, And Good Customers, And Good Gain, And All These By Becoming Religious, Which Is Good!”
- Of Course - The Religion Espoused By Mr. By-Ends:
 - Could Never Weather:
 - The Winds & Tides:
 - That Might Turn Against True Christians:
 - At Any Time!
 - And So - He Was Content:
 - To Be Called A Christian:
 - As Long As:
 - The Sun Shined & The People Applauded Him!
- But - What Did Jesus Say?
 - In Matthew 16:24-26 - “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. / For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. / For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
- You Cannot Follow Jesus:
 - “In Simplicity & Godly Sincerity” If:
 - The Possessions Of This World:
 - Are The End-Goal Of Your Life!
 - Because:
 - “By-Ends Are Almost Always Bad Ends, But Love To Christ, Singleness Of Heart For Christ” Is The Best End! (George Cheever)
 - But - This Kind Of Christian Living:
 - Is Against The Wind & Tide:
 - Of This World & Its Culture!
 - As Christian Said - “If You Will Go With Us, You *Must* Go Against Wind And Tide!”
 - But This Is The Only Kind Of Christian Living:

- That Lives Up To Its Name!
 - As Christians - “We Want, In All Things, An Eye Single For God, For His Approbation, For His Glory!” (George Cheever)
- Well - After Christian & Hopeful:
 - Part Ways With Mr. By-Ends:
 - His Three Friends Come Up To Meet Him:
 - Along The Path!

* And - Mr. Hold-The-World Reminds Us Of The Dangers Of:

2. *The Prestige Of This World!*

- Mr. Hold-The-World:
 - Seemed To Be Very Thoughtful & Wise!
 - Not Only In Worldly Wisdom:
 - But He Even Used The Wisdom Of God’s Word:
 - To Make Wrong Conclusions About Christian & Hopeful!
 - But - What Does The Lord Say?
 - In 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 - “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. / For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. / And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain!”
 - You Cannot Follow Jesus:
 - “In Simplicity & Godly Sincerity” If:
 - The Prestige & Wisdom Of This World:
 - Is What You Are After!
 - Because - Simple & Sincere Christian Living:
 - Is Against The Wind & Tide:
 - Of This World, Its Culture:
 - And Even - Many Professing Christians!
 - But Once Again - This Is The Only Kind Of Christian Living:
 - Worth Living!
 - Because - “The Foolishness Of God Is Wiser Than Men; And The Weakness Of God Is Stronger Than Men!” (1 Corinthians 1:25)

* Of Course - Mr. Money-Love Reminds Us Of The Dangers Of:

3. *The Pleasures Of This World!*

- Mr. Money-Love:
 - Forgot The Truths That We Find In:
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-11 - “But godliness with contentment is great gain. / For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. / And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. / But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. / For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows!”
 - For Mr. Money-Love:
 - Covetousness:
 - Was Considered A Virtue:
 - And Christian Contentment:
 - Was A Vice!
 - But - The Truth Is - You Cannot Follow Jesus:
 - “In Simplicity & Godly Sincerity” If:
 - The Pleasure Of This World:
 - Is The Desire Of Your Heart!
 - But - This Kind Of Christian Living:
 - Is Still Against The Wind & Tide:
 - Of This World & Its Culture!
 - Instead - With Single Minds & Hearts:
 - We Must Do What Paul Says:
 - In 1 Timothy 6:11 - “But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow

after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness!”

* But Then - Mr. Save-All Reminds Us Of The Dangers Of:

4. ***The Protection Of This World!***

- Mr. Save-All Was A Miser!

- He Considered Everything That He Had:

- To Be Provided To Him:

- For His Own Security & Protection!

- And So - He Held On To Everything:

- So Tightly:

- That He Was Not Willing To:

- Hazard Anything:

- For The Lord!

- But - What Else Did Jesus Say?

- In Matthew 5:42 - “Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away!”

- We Cannot Follow Jesus:

- “In Simplicity & Godly Sincerity” If:

- The Protection Of This World:

- Is More Important To Us Than:

- The Pursuit Of Others’ Souls!

- But - Once Again - This Kind Of Christian Living:

- Is Against The Wind & Tide:

- Of This World & Its Culture!

Conclusion:

1. I Actually Don’t Think The Story We Just Read:

- Even Needs These Three Other Characters!

- Because - Mr. By-Ends Already Had:

- A Little Bit Of All Three:

- Within Himself!

- We Can Sense The Characters Of:

- Mr. Hold-The-World, Mr. Money-Love, And Mr. Save-All:

- In His Own Words Against:

- Christian & Faithful!

- When He Stated - For Himself:

- “They, After Their Headstrong Manner, Conclude That It Is Duty To Rush On Their Journey All Weathers; I Am For Waiting For Wind And Tide!”

- He Added:

- “They Are For Hazarding All For God At A Clap; I Am For Taking All Advantages To Secure My Life And Estate! (Like Mr. Save-All)

- “They Are For Holding Their Notions, Though All Other Men Are Against Them; But I Am For Religion In What, And So Far As The Times, And My Safety, Will Bear It!” (Like Mr. Hold-The-World)

- “They Are For Religion When In Rags An Contempt; But I Am For When He Walks In His Golden Slippers, In The Sunshine, And With Applause!” (Like Mr. Money-Love)

2. But - Isn’t What Mr. By-Ends Is Offended By:

- The Way Christ Calls Us:

- To Follow Him?

- As Bunyan Wrote - In Another Place:

- “If We Will Follow Christ, He Tells Us That We Must Take Up Our Cross!”

- And Then He Adds What Jesus Might Say:

- “The Wind Sets Always On My Face; And The Foaming Rage Of The Sea Of This World, And The Proud And Lofty Waves Thereof Do Continually Beat Upon The Sides Of The Bark, Or Ship, That Myself, My Cause, And My Followers Are In!” (“Greatness Of The Soul”)

3. So - Even Though:

- Living For Christ:

- May Be “Against Wind & Tide” - According To The World:
 - Keep Following Him:
 - “In Simplicity & Godly Sincerity!”
- And Don’t Be Deluded By Or Distracted By:
 - The Possessions, The Prestige, The Pleasure, Or Even The Protection:
 - That This World Has To Offer!
- 4. In Your Christian Life:
 - Do Not Look One Way:
 - While Rowing The Other!
 - “Whatsoever Ye Do, Do It Heartily, As To The Lord, And Not As Unto Men! The Very Drudgery And Toilsomeness Of Our Pilgrimage Is Turned Into A Divine And Holy Service By This Precious Singleness Of Heart For Christ! Oh, How Desirable Is This In Every Thing! (George Cheever)

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***