

Pilgrims of Faith: Living Out an Unseen Justification

Hebrews 10:36-39 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Brian Hedges: “The theme of *The Pilgrim's Progress* is ‘the perseverance of the saints’. .. In other words, only those who persevere in faith and holiness prove that they are truly saved. It is true that none of Christ's sheep will perish (John 10:28). But it is also true that all of Christ's sheep ‘follow him’. *Pilgrim's Progress* is about the perseverance of a saint. Bunyan might well have entitled his book *The Pilgrim Perseverance*, for that is its theme.” (Essay, *Why We Should Read Pilgrim's Progress*)

The Christian pilgrimage is upward (faith) not inward (works).

Faith is looking outside the self. Faith is looking to Christ in the heavens presenting all the righteousness we need before God to God on our behalf.

Hebrews 4:14 tells the whole of Hebrews in a nutshell (Gaffin). Hebrews 4:14 says, “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.” Faith is directed outward and upward to Christ not inward toward me or toward a better version of me.

The Christian pilgrim endures with a faith-hope in the future unseen salvation of God.

Question: If my righteousness is in heaven, then why embark on such a dangerous journey? Why go through the trouble of being a faithful pilgrim? Why go on this journey that has such a narrow road? What walk along this path that is so difficult and dangerous? Why, if my righteousness is secure in heaven?

Answer: If my righteousness is in heaven, I belong where my righteousness is!

Romans 1:17

Galatians 3:11

Hebrews 10:32-39

The Christian pilgrim endures by faith because the good Word of the living God holds his attention.

Hebrews 11 “by faith” ... “by faith” ... “by faith” ... “by faith”