

## **A DREAMER AND HIS WONDERFUL DREAM**

The Story of John Bunyan and The Pilgrim's Progress

by

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### **Chapter 14**

#### **HOPEFUL JOINS CHRISTIAN TO THE END OF THE JOURNEY**

#### **CHRISTIAN MEETS HOPEFUL**

GOD, Who orders all things according to His own purpose, so decreed that after Christian had been kept in prison for some time, he was at length allowed to have his liberty again. As soon as he was liberated, Christian resumed his journey towards the Celestial City singing as he went,

"Well Faithful, thou hast faithfully professed  
Unto thy Lord: with Whom thou shalt be blest;  
When faithless ones, with all their vain delight,  
Are crying out under their hellish plights,  
Sing, Faithful, sing; and let thy name survive,  
For though they killed thee, thou art yet alive."

Christian had not gone far, however, before he was joined by another man whose name was Hopeful, who had been made so by seeing the godly lives of Christian and Faithful, and hearing from their lips the glorious Gospel of the grace of GOD.

As a lost and guilty sinner, Hopeless, (for that was his name at that time) received the Lord JESUS CHRIST as his Saviour, and was filled with hope and peace through believing. When Christian heard that another poor sinner had been brought to know CHRIST through his life and testimony, he was overjoyed and thanked GOD and took courage.

Christian and Hopeful now entered into a brotherly covenant to travel the highway of life together, sharing each other's joys and sorrows, victories and defeats, till death should them part.

We are thus introduced to another pilgrim who is to continue with Christian till the end of the journey.

Truly "GOD buries His workers, but He carries on His work."

From the ashes of Faithful arose others to take his place in the ranks of the redeemed.

This also illustrates what soul winning means. There is no joy to be compared with that which fills the heart of the Christian who realizes that GOD, through his life and testimony, has used him as the instrument to bring another fellow sinner to the Lord JESUS CHRIST. Has this ever been your happy experience, Christian reader? Do you know of anybody who is a Christian because you are one? If you have never had this unspeakable privilege and joy, seek by all means in your power to let your life so speak for CHRIST, your lips so testify for Him, and your heart so go out to them in love and prayer, that they may be attracted to the Lord JESUS, and through the Spirit's conviction and regeneration, be led to journey with you along the heavenward way.

This is the responsibility of every Christian, and not a favored few.

The Lord commands all His own to "go unto all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This does not necessarily mean that sermons must be preached, for all are not gifted alike; but all who are saved can surely tell others in their own way how salvation full and free may be their portion.

A lady once asked a noted evangelist what was the best method of soul winning. His reply was, "go and do it."

There are many ways of preaching the Gospel. Tract distribution is a splendid means to this end. Get some good, sound Gospel tracts and distribute them carefully and prayerfully. This will be a great aid in opening a conversation on spiritual things. Hospital visitation, open air work, and personal conversations all provide opportunity for Gospel activity.

Paul's maxim was, "**I am made all things unto all men that I might by all means save some**" (I Corinthians 9:22). Be not as the dying Christian who had to lament, "Yes, I am saved and going to Heaven, but I am going empty-handed, without having won one soul for Him." The Lord JESUS had no greater joy than to do His Father's will, and the Father's will is that "**none should perish.**" Shall we not heed the words of the poet:

"Go labor on, spend and be spent,  
Thy joy to do the Father's will;  
It is the way the Master went --  
Should not the servant tread it still?"

"Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray;  
Be wise the erring soul to win;  
Go forth into the world's highway,  
Compel the wanderer to come in.

"Toil on, and in thy toil rejoice,  
For toil brings rest, for exile home;  
Soon shalt thou hear the Bridegroom's voice,  
The midnight peal, 'Behold, I come.'"

**BY ENDS**

As they proceeded onward, they overtook a man who was going before them whose name was By Ends, so they asked him who he was and where he was going. He told them he was from the town of Fairspeech and that he was going to the Celestial City, but he did not tell them his name.

Then said Christian, "If you come from Fairspeech, then you come from a wealthy place."

At this, By Ends smiled and replied, "O yes, and I have many rich relatives there."

When Christian next asked him who his relatives were, By Ends informed him that amongst his many kindred in that place were Lord Turn-about, Lord Time-server, Lord Fairspeech (from whose ancestors that town first received its name), Mr. Smooth-man, Mr. Facing-both-ways, Mr. Anything and the parson of the parish, Mr. Two-tongues."

Continuing By Ends remarked, "To tell you the truth, I am become a gentleman of good quality; yet my great grandfather was a boatman who looked one way while he rowed the other, and I got most of my money doing the same thing."

Then Christian inquired if he was a married man. By Ends replied that he was, and that he was happily married to Lady Pretender's daughter, and they were both agreed on two points of religion;

- first, they would never strive against the wind and the tide, but would go whichever way the wind blew.
- Secondly, they would be most zealous for religion when it walked in silver slippers, and the sun was shining, and everyone applauded those who were religiously inclined.

When the pilgrims heard this, Christian turned aside to Hopeful and said, "I believe this man's name is By Ends, and if it is, he is one of the worst men in these parts. He is a shame and disgrace to anyone."

Then Christian stepped up to him and inquired, "Is your name By Ends of Fairspeech?"

By Ends replied, "This is not my name but is a nickname given me, but I bear it as part of a reproach that other good men have borne before me. I got it because I had always the luck to jump in my judgment with the way of the times, and I made considerable money in this fashion."

Christian then told him in plain language exactly what he thought of him and his ways, and ended by informing him that if he would go with them, he must be prepared to go against the wind, the storm and the tide; and to take his stand for Christianity when all men derided those who named the name of CHRIST, and counted them a reproach and shame.

To this By Ends would not for a moment agree, so they left him and went their way.

As By Ends stood in the middle of the road, he saw coming towards him three of his old school companions whose names were Hold-the-world, Money-love and Save-all. They had been in school together many years before in Love-gain College in Coveting county, and their head master had been a Mr. Tight-fist who had taught them the ignoble art of gaining wealth, either by fraud, violence and flattery; but especially by putting on the guise of religion.

These pupils had become so expert in this line of things that they could quite easily have set up a school for themselves! After the usual salutations were over, Mr. Money-love asked, "Who are those two men going on the road before us?" By Ends then related to them what Christian and Hopeful had said to him, and concluded by saying, "The men before us are so rigid, and love so much their own notions, and so lightly esteem the opinions of others, that, let a man be never so godly, if he does not agree with them in all things, they thrust him out of their company. "Ah," ejaculated Save-all, "I see that they are righteous overmuch! I affirm that the person who puts on the guise of religion in order to get wealth, gets two good things. He gets religion which is good, and money which is good." This sentiment was heartily applauded by all the rest of his like-minded companions, and they moved slowly in the track of the two pilgrims.

## **SPIRITUAL LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM BY ENDS**

We need not spend much time in explaining the meaning of this scene, as the speech of these four men carries its own condemnation.

There are people today who are doing exactly the same as these men. How many there are who put on the cloak of religion and join some denomination in order to stand in well with the community where they have their business. They thus use their profession of Christianity to better themselves financially, socially and commercially.

Judas, one of CHRIST's own disciples did this. He pretended to be a follower of the Lord, but it was because of the bag of money that he had charge of, and from which he often stole for his own benefit. His awful end and his fearful doom should be a warning to others who seek to follow his example.

The Pharisees in the time of our Lord sought to do this, and were unsparingly exposed and condemned by the Saviour Himself in these words, "Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widow's houses, and for a pretense make long prayers, therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation" (Matthew 23:14).

GOD hates sham and hypocrisy in any form and has declared, "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon" (or wealth). He also reveals that "the hope of the hypocrite shall perish."

The only way to deal with such persons as By Ends and his companions is to do what Christian did, refuse to associate with such.

The Bible enjoins the believer to "**be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers**" but to "**come out from among them and be ye separate.**" The question is asked, "**how can two walk together except they be agreed?**"

Such pious fraud should be exposed mercilessly and their company refused, lest they contaminates one's own soul, for it is written, "**evil communications corrupt good manners.**"

## **MONEY HILL**

Soon Christian and Hopeful came to a plain called Ease where they walked with much contentment, but as that plain was narrow they quickly crossed it. As they reached the other side they saw a little hill called Lucre Hill or

Money Hill, right alongside the straight and narrow path. In this hill was a silver mine that had caused many to turn aside from the path in order to enrich themselves, but the ground around the edge of the mine, being loose and treacherous, had broken underneath them causing some to be killed and others to be maimed for the rest of their lives.

As they came close to it, they saw a man named Demas standing by, who called to them and suggested that they should combine business with pleasure and turn aside from the path for a little while, and help themselves to the rich and rare treasures of the silver mine. Thus they would be enabled to spend the remainder of their journey heavenward in ease and comfort. This sounded good to Hopeful and he exclaimed, "Let us go and see!" Christian, however, put his hands upon his companion's shoulder and said, "I have heard of this place before, and how many have there been slain; and besides, that treasure is a snare to those that seek it, for it hinders them in their pilgrimage." Thus Christian persuaded Hopeful to refuse to listen to Demas' advice, and they continued on their way.

GOD's Word speaks of Money Hill, for it warns the pilgrim that **"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. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness"** (I Timothy 6:9-11).

This is a very real danger in the pilgrim path. You will have noticed that it was at the end of the plain called Ease, that the temptation came. It is when things are going easy with the Christian that the subtle temptation comes to set his eyes and his heart on the getting of money, until gradually the love of money becomes the absorbing thing of life.

When the love of money fills the heart it displaces the love of CHRIST, the love of reading, studying and meditating in GOD's Word; the love of prayer; the love of winning souls for the Saviour, and the love of meeting together with GOD's people. This love of money, like a cancer, eats at the root of the spiritual life, and produces coldness of heart, laxity in service, and barrenness of soul, until the Christian loses his pilgrim character, his usefulness in CHRIST's service, and his own joy of salvation. He develops into a shame and disgrace to the name of CHRIST, and a stumbling block in the way of the unsaved.

Notice that the Bible does not say that "Money is the root of all evil"; but that **"the love of money is the root of all evil."**

Money is an excellent servant when controlled; but is a terrible and tyrannical master when it dominates the soul. The Lord JESUS addressed Himself to such as follows **"Thou sayest thou art rich and increased with goods and hast need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see"** (Revelation 3:17-18).

Beware of the lust of wealth, for it ruins the believer's life of communion with the Lord.

The love of CHRIST and the love of wealth can never occupy the same heart. It is far better to be poor in this world's riches and be rich towards GOD, than vice versa. Money has been well described as "A universal provider

for everything but happiness, and a universal passport to every place except Heaven."

The Lord JESUS said, "**Lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**"

GOD will see to it that all the needs of His children will be met. His promise is, "**God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**" If any Christian reader feels that his money is running away with him, let him speedily get rid of some to speed some servants of CHRIST in far off needy fields with the Gospel, or to alleviate some necessity that is near at hand. GOD will be no man's debtor, and the Christian's investment for Him shall return in the way of blessing to his own soul with interest compounded an hundredfold!

When By Ends and his companions arrived at Money Hill, and heard the invitation from Demas, they rushed towards the mine without a moment's hesitation. Whether they fell into the pit, or went down to dig, or were smothered by the foul gases at the bottom, John Bunyan does not tell us, but he adds, "This I observed, they were never seen again in the way."

## **REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE**

Presently the pilgrims came to a place where a monument stood that aroused their curiosity. It looked as though it had been a woman transformed into a pillar. As they stood before it, Hopeful spied some handwriting on the head of the statue, and Christian read out the words, which were these. "**Remember Lot's wife!**" Then Christian realized that this was the pillar of salt into which Lot's wife had been turned as she looked back while fleeing from the city of Sodom. Let us recall the story and lay to heart the lesson in these three significant words, "**Remember Lot's wife.**"

Lot was Abraham's nephew, and while in the land of Canaan, the time came when they must part, for there was strife between the herdsmen of Abraham's cattle, and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle. Accordingly Abraham said to Lot: "**Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee from me. If thou wilt take the left hand then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.**" Lot then looked around, and seeing the well watered plain of Jordan, chose this for himself and Abraham went the other way. In this plain of Jordan was a wicked city, called Sodom, and soon Lot moved into this city and reared a family there.

After some years had passed, the wickedness of this city became so great that GOD determined He would destroy it with fire from Heaven; but before He did so, He sent two angels into the city to warn Lot and his family of the impending doom so that they might escape. Lot, in turn, sought to warn his sons-in-law of their danger, but they paid no attention to him. At last the two angels took Lot and his wife and two daughters, and brought them to the gate of the city and said, "Escape for thy life! Look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain! Escape to the mountain lest thou be consumed! Thus adjured, they began to flee from the doomed city, but Lot's wife, who loved Sodom with its wickedness, pomp, fashion, popularity, power and riches, turned to look back, no doubt with a longing desire to re-enter the city where her heart really lived - for all her treasure was there - and GOD, that moment, came in judgment upon her and turned her into a pillar of salt. Many, many years afterwards, the Lord JESUS turning to His audience exclaimed solemnly, "**Remember Lot's wife!**"

### THREE LESSONS FROM LOT'S WIFE

There are three things we shall do well to remember about Lot's wife.

- The first is, Remember her privileges. These were twofold.

First, she was related to a righteous man whose soul was vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked, but this did not save her. The fact that a person is related to a child of GOD does not save that individual. Each person must be saved individually through the faith in the finished work and acceptance of CHRIST as his own Saviour. To be a child of Christian parents is indeed a great privilege, but is no guarantee of salvation. Perhaps some boy or girl who is reading this has parents who are on the way of Heaven, while they are still traversing the broad downward path to hell. Perhaps some wife is a child of GOD while the husband is still a child of wrath. How sad to think of being related to a child of GOD and then lost eternally!

Then again, think of the privilege of being warned by two angels sent down from Heaven! Yet in spite of this she was lost. GOD warns the unsaved in this day by something far more authoritative than angels. He warns by His Own Word, the Bible, and bids the sinner to "**flee from the wrath to come!**" and furthermore "**commands all men everywhere to repent.**" Has the reader heeded these and many other warnings; or have you, like Lot's wife, allowed them to pass unheeded?

- Next, Remember her sin, the sin of unbelief. She heard the warning voice but proved she did not believe by her disobedience to the command of the angels. Unbelief is the damning sin, and causes thousands of souls to be eternally lost. Many realize that they are sinners, and as such, are under GOD's condemnation. They have heard of a Saviour's love and of His death for their sins on Calvary's Cross. They have heard that all who will believe on Him and receive Him as their own Saviour will be eternally saved. Yet they still linger in their sins and trifle with the proffered mercy and grace of GOD! What keeps them in this position? Unbelief! Unbelief stands between them and GOD. If any reader is in such a condition, mark well the words, "**Remember Lot's wife!**"

- Lastly, Remember her doom. She perished in the destruction of that on which she had set her heart. All her treasure was in Sodom, a picture of this world, and when Sodom perished, she perished with it. One day, we know not when, the Lord JESUS is to be "**Revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.**" Woe unto those in that day who are living for this world alone! There are many like Lot's wife, whose god is fashion, fancy, pleasure, power, sport, and treasure. Their life is centered upon the passing things of this world. Although warned of the fate of one who in time past did the same thing, yet they go on, heedless, careless, Godless, until the time comes when upon a death bed they seek to flee from the wrath they richly deserve, and attempt to disentangle their minds from that which has occupied them all their lives; but in their weak and dying condition, they realize, too late, that there is no escape for those who neglect so great salvation. Thus their poor Christless souls pass into a Christless eternity where there is endless weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth. Thus they perish, victims of their own mad folly and wilful rejection of GOD's great salvation. Let each unsaved reader weigh carefully and soberly the meaning of these three intensely solemn words, "**Remember Lot's wife!**"

~ end of chapter 14 ~

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