

W E D N E S D A Y N I G H T B I B L E S T U D Y

# THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

PART 1

## PILGRIMS AND PILGRIMAGES



*Reading: Hebrews 11: 13 - 16*

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### **Introduction**

- John Bunyan was born near Bedford in 1628.
- After his conversion he became a pastor and preacher.
- He was imprisoned for some 12 years for refusing to stop preaching.
- In prison he wrote the 1st part of the Christian classic '*The Pilgrim's Progress.*'
- It was first published in 1678 and it has never been out of publication since.
- Considered to be the most important Christian book after the Bible.
- CS Lewis, '*It is a book that has astonished the world.*'
- It has over 500 quotations from the Bible.
- In it you will meet over 120 different characters and visit over 60 different places.
- The book is written as an allegory.
- Augustus Toplady: '*It describes every stage of a Christian's experience from conversion to their glorification.*'

## 1 The Christian As A Pilgrim

- Scripture uses the motif of a soldier and warfare to describe the Christian and Christianity.
- But Bunyan zeros in on the motif of the believer being a '*pilgrim*' and the Christian life portrayed as a '*pilgrimage*'.
- Consider: [Hebrews 11:13], [1 Peter 2:11], [Genesis 47:9] and [Psalm 84:5].

## 2 The Pilgrimage

- There are a number of great journeys undertaken in the Bible.
- The journey of Abraham from Ur to Canaan.
- The journey of the children of Israel from Egypt to '*the Promised Land*'.
- In '*Pilgrim's Progress*' it is the journey '*from this world to that which is to come*'.
- It is a journey from '*the city of destruction*' to '*the Celestial city*'.
- NB. This world is not our home - we are just passing through.
- Don't be hammering your tent pegs in deep.
- This '*Celestial City*' is in a heavenly country and its Builder and Maker is God [Hebrews 11:10 & 16].
- One city is ear-marked for destruction while the other is eternal.
- The believer's citizenship is in heaven. [Philippians 3:19/20].

## Conclusion

- You and I are pilgrims.
- This world is not our home. We are just passing through.
- Our best life is not NOW.
- It is only when this life is over and we arrive at the '*Celestial City*'.

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