

Introduction to Pilgrim Progress Study

A few years ago I read the book “The Pilgrim Progress” and was very impressed to how God used John Bunyan about four hundred years ago to touch the world with the Biblical knowledge on what our pilgrimage here on earth should look like.

This book for hundreds of years was the second greatest selling book, 2nd only to the Bible itself. As a pastor I had been searching for not only what is wrong with the modern church, but also was there anything I or anyone could do about it revive the church. As I look around me I see church after church (local congregations) dying. WHY?

It is my belief that we no longer view our life as a pilgrimage or a race as Paul describes it. We have taken our eyes off Jesus the author and finisher of our faith and placed them upon man. As I studied “The Pilgrim Progress”, I also discovered the short story of Hawthorne called, “The Celestial Railroad”. Hawthorne wrote his short story about two hundred years after Bunyan wrote “The Pilgrim Progress. Hawthorne’s “Celestial Railroad” is a satire about the eighteen century view of the Christian Pilgrimage as a “Train Ride”, a pilgrimage of leisure and little or no commitment.

As I led my church in a year long study of God's picture of the Christian walk, pilgrimage, or race using “The Pilgrim Progress” as a template, I decided to create a website (www.pilgrim-institute.org) and a free Bible study. The following twelve lessons can be used for an individual, small group, Sunday School, or church wide study. The website contains resources and links for a number of supporting resources.

Charles Spurgeon has this to say about Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress: “Next to the Bible, the book that I value most is John Bunyan’s ‘Pilgrim’s Progress.’ I believe I have read it through at least a hundred times. It is a volume of which I never seem to tire; and the secret of its freshness is that it is so largely compiled from the Scriptures. It is really Biblical teaching put into the form of a simple yet very striking allegory.”

I have come to the same conclusion of Spurgeon. Next to the Bible it is my favorite book.

I also have posted a number of blogs and brief Sermon outlines, which I will be improving over the next year.

I pray that God will use these resources for His glory!

If you decide to use the material as an individual, I invite you to use me as an accountability partner. Just send me the answers to your questions or any questions or comments you might have. My email address is charles@pilgrim-institute.org