

Battling Apollyon Pilgrim's Progress – 5

Introduction

- I. The Palace Beautiful
 - A. Christian Conversation – of a particular type
 - 1. Recounting Conversion and loss of family
 - 2. Spiritual truths learned in the pilgrimage
 - 3. Evangelistic endeavors
 - 4. Personal battle with sin ongoing
 - 5. Christ's saving work
 - B. Christ's work in history and its effects
 - 1. Christ is God
 - 2. The perseverance of the faithful Heb. 11
 - C. The Armory Eph. 6:10-20
 - D. God's use of the unexpected
 - 1. Moses' Rod Ex. 4:20
 - 2. Joel's hammer and nails Jud. 4:22
 - 3. Gideon's battle tools Jud. 7:19-23
 - 4. Shangar's ox goad Jud. 3:31
 - 5. Samson's use of a jawbone Jud. 15:15
 - 6. David's slingshot 1 Sam. 17:49
 - E. Reminder of Heaven
 - F. Armed for battle Eph. 6:10-20

Application:

- 1. This description reminds us of much we could look for within a church.
- 2. Here is a scene of much discussion of biblical truth. How much our normal conversation, excluding times of trial, involves such discussion?
- 3. Regarding the Lord's Day and church, what are some reminders of heaven that God gives?
- 4. Bunyan sees the church as an important aspect of the Christian's life. Is there evidence of the lesser importance of the church in the lives of Christians today? If so, why?

II. The Valley of Humiliation

A. Previous Preparation

1. The ministry of the church
2. Christian companionship 2 Sam. 16:1

B. Apollyon's Assertions - Apollyon – not description Job 41:12ff; Rev. 13:1,2

1. Deny Christ, as others have.
2. Apollyon would receive Christian, although Christian had earlier turned his back on him.
3. Christian faced a martyr's death.
4. Christian had been unfaithful to God.

C. Apollyon's Rage

1. Attacks Christian
2. Christian wounded

D. Apollyon Resisted James 4:7

1. By God's word – the sword
2. Apt scriptural quotations Mi. 2:8, Rom. 8:37
3. Christians refreshed - how?

Application:

1. Not all Christians are attacked as Christian was. For example, faithful travels through the Valley and never faces such attack.
2. Bunyan puts much stress on faithful church attendance and involvement as an aid to our Christian walk.
3. Why is there no armor for the Christian's back?
4. Christians are constantly tempted to stay out of the Bible.
5. How seriously do you fight attacks to deny Christian truth?
6. Note that the sword and Christian's use of it made a great difference in this battle.
7. How are temptations to flee Christian truth different in our day than in Bunyan's?