

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Porters plan to travel to GA this week.
- Michelle, Brenda's Daughter has Bell's Palsy and is undergoing treatments for it.
- Kass' Grandmother has been diagnosed with Lung Cancer.
- Keep April in your prayers.
- Debbie's Dad has been diagnosed with a blood clot in his lung.
- Jennifer & Kevin are leaving for Washington D.C. this afternoon.
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tomorrow night 7:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism.

For prayer requests, call or text
Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

Today Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	Wednesday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
Next Sunday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	Next Wednesday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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Our Pilgrimage: In Search of a Better Home

By Ross Ward

In our previous bulletin we discussed how immigrants were willing to give up many things they valued in hope of a better place. In this article we will consider a different group of immigrants that came to this land, The early American Pilgrim. When we think of a pilgrim we may not realize the meaning behind the word. According to one dictionary a pilgrim is:

“a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion” dictionary.com

From this definition we understand why the settlers in Plymouth, Massachusetts were called pilgrims. They were Puritans that had left England in search of a place they could practice their religion without interference. As Christians, we recognize that we are pilgrims in this world. Another word we could use is sojourner. Peter referenced this:

I Pet 1:17, “And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:”

I Pet 2:11, “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims,...”

Pilgrims are strangers or sojourners who are in search of a better home. A home without the trials and temptations of this world. As with anyone seeking a new home, there will be planning and preparations for the great journey. There are a few ideas worthy to consider here that correlate to our journey as a Christian.

Being Prepared for the Journey: It takes money to pay for transportation and living expenses during travel. Any who seek to relocate to a new home, would save up so they have the ability to leave when it is time. As Christians we are taught to prepare the journey. The parables Jesus taught in Mt 25 illustrate this lesson very well. We have the parable of “The 10 Young Maidens” of which all came prepared with lamps and oil but only 5 were properly prepared and had enough oil for the wedding. The lesson is that we are to be prepared. Through his word, God has given us direction and purpose in this life. We continually search it to discover what it takes to be properly prepared. There is also the Parable of “The Talents” where the Master left the 5, 2, & 1 talent men with his goods. The 5&2 talent men were prepared when the master returned by being active and using the money and goods they were left with according to their masters expectations. We too are to use our abilities according to the Masters purpose. If we ignore opportunities to fulfill the master purpose, we are condemned just as the One Talent man is condemned. In both cases, the 5 Maidens and the Masters servants 5&2 talent men, are approved being properly prepared and applying their abilities. There is a great journey ahead of us and when it is time, we cannot turn back to fix things we have left undone. He has instructed us to be well prepared.

Selling out: Eventually the early American Pilgrims reached a point when all they had of value had to be sold. They had to divest themselves of anything that could not make the journey; whether because of weight, size, or purpose. We should ask what are we acquiring while we prepare. Where are we putting our talents to work? Are we filling our lives with things that will not travel with us? In a somewhat perplexing passage Paul taught that our labors will be tried with fire.

I Cor 3:13, “Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.”

I believe one aspect we can take from this passage is that some of the “investments” we have in this life will not survive the trial. So we should ask ourselves: How much time do we spend on the works that will survive the trial? What will we have to divest ourselves of when we leave? If we are pilgrims planning and preparing for a new home, then we would focus significant effort to achieve that goal. Consider if your works and labors are purified with fire, what will you have left? Those are the things that will follow us to heaven. Jesus taught this lesson in the Sermon on the Mount:

Mt 6:19-21, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Reaping our reward: In our preparations for our pilgrimage we do not store up for personal gain or advancement. When Jesus’ disciples inquired about their reward, after all they had gave up all to follow Jesus (Mt 19:27-30), Jesus taught the parable of “The Laborers in the Vineyard” (Mt 20:1-16). In this parable, He taught that they will all receive the same reward by using the analogy of labors in the vineyard. All labors in the vineyard received the same wages regardless of how long they worked. So we see that our labors are not for personal gain or advancement but for the Glory of God. Paul prayed this for the Christians in Philippi:

Php 1:11, “Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.”

We bring God glory and praise when we obey his commands. When we live Christian lives. We may save up much, but what we save up is not ours, it does not belong to us, it is for God. Nor is it to inflate our position. We are taught that no matter the time on the job, how much we have harvested for the master; all will receive the same reward;

We are immigrants preparing to enter our eternal home. Sojourner, pilgrims. There are many distractions in this life. This life is really a proving ground; a place for us to show God that we love him and desire to serve Him. When we focus on the world, we become distracted from our goal and purpose. We can become burdened with things that are not of eternal value. We have been given a road map through this life, a map on how to navigate the destructive behaviors and attitudes of Satan. At the end of this life we are all going to sell out and make a journey that we have never made. A journey into the afterlife to stand before our Judge, our Creator, and our God. Let’s all focus our labors so we are preparing properly for that day.