

## John Bunyan—His Life #1

Introduction: Tumultuous times

- I. Early Life
  - a. Birth-1628
    - i. A Christian, but poor home
    - ii. Little education
  - b. The School of Life
    - i. Death of a loved one-1644
    - ii. Step-mother
    - iii. He was wild and willful
  - c. Civil War Soldier
  
- II. Young Adult
  - a. Marriage-1649
  - b. Wife's wealth
  - c. Children-4
  - d. Conversion
    - i. Church attendance
    - ii. More moral
    - iii. Shattered complacency
    - iv. Regeneration
      1. John Gifford
      2. Church Member-1653
  
- III. Years of Suffering
  - a. Death-1655
    - i. Wife's death
    - ii. Pastor's death
  - b. Manifold Ministry
    - i. Preaching
    - ii. Publishing
    - iii. Marriage-Elizabeth
  - c. Imprisonment
    - i. Arrested-1660
    - ii. Preaching without a license
    - iii. Wife's petition
    - iv. Released-1672
  - d. Prison Work
    - i. Making shoelaces
    - ii. Writing-11 books published
  - e. Preaching
    - i. Licensed-May 9, 1672
    - ii. Nonconformists' licenses recalled March, 1674

- f. In Prison Again-1674
  - i. Six Months
  - ii. John Owens' intervention
  - iii. *Pilgrim's Progress* written—published 1678

- IV. Final Years
  - a. Ministry
  - b. Deeds all possessions to wife-1685
  - c. Further writing
  - d. Death August 31, 1688
  - e. Religious liberty renewed the next month.

Application:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Quotations:

1. Regarding the resources for his writing:  
“I have not for these things fished in other men’s waters; my Bible and Concordance are my only library in my writings.” –John Bunyan
2. Regarding Bunyan:  
“I would gladly give up all my learning if I could preach like that tinker.”  
–John Owen (spoken to Charles II)
3. “Prick him anywhere; and you will find that his blood is Bibrine, the very essence of the Bible flows from him. He cannot speak without quoting a text, for his soul is full of the Word of God.” –C.H. Spurgeon

## **Class Resources**

*The Pilgrims Progress* by John Bunyan

*Lectures on the Pilgrim's Progress* by Rev. G.B. Cheever

*The Life of John Bunyan* by Edmund Venables

*The Hidden Smile of God: The Fruit of Affliction in the Lives of John Bunyan, William, Couper and David Brainerd*

## **Outline of the Class**

- Sept. 9 Bunyan's Life
- Sept. 16 The City of Destruction and Slough of Despond
- Sept. 23 The House of the Interpreter
- Sept. 30 The Hill of Difficulty
- Oct. 7 The Valley of Humiliation
- Oct. 14 The Valley of the Shadow of Death
- Oct. 21 Vanity Fair
- Oct. 28 No class—Reformation Conference
- Nov. 4 Doubting Castle and Giant Despair
- Nov. 11 The Delectable Mountains and Enchanted Ground
- Nov. 18 Beulah and the River of Death
- Nov. 25 Christiana, Mercy, and the Children