

Palace of The Christian Life

Bible study

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Palace of the Christian

Introduction

Bunyan in his great allegorical book Pilgrims Progress describes the "Palace Beautiful". There are four ladies that live there Discretion, Prudence, Piety and Charity. They welcomed Christian, gave him a room to sleep in and over the next couple of days they showed him around the Palace and its various rooms and features. Then armed him and sent him on his way towards the Delectable Mountains and Immanuel's Land.

Dr. F.B. Meyer in his book Steps into the Christian Life writes about the "Chambers of the King" and how they open onto one another. Also DR. George F. Pentecost in his book "Grace Abounding in the forgiveness of Sins" continues these same thoughts. I have often conceived to myself God's salvation being provided for us in a splendid mansion, set in the midst of a garden of delights a "house of mercy" over the steps are inscribed "Who so ever will let him come" "him that cometh I will in no wise cast out." These writers have led to this humble study of the "Palace of the Christian life" with its halls, stairways, public and private rooms along with their spiritual importance. We must approach this Palace by the broad paved pathway of "Conviction" here is what John has to say about conviction in John 9:9 "And they which heard it being convicted by their own conscience."

Conviction means – being found guilty, being persuaded or convicted, and being at the bar of ones own conscience. Also in Acts 2:37 we have these words "Now when they heard this they were pricked in their heart". Now "Pricked" means to strike or prick with a sharp tool, to bring a sudden strong reaction.

From this convicting pathway we enter a large semi circular paved area called "Forgiveness". Look here in Acts 13:38 "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins".

The glaring need of forgiveness comes with the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. This area of forgiveness stretches

around the circular steps of "Repentance". Look here at Acts 2:38 "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" repent means—to change direction or to change ones mind to do an about face. It is a military term. This is one aspect of salvation taken very lightly by far too many churches today.

From these steps up which a pilgrim must walk they open onto the "Porch of Confession." Matthew 10: 32 &33 says "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

"Confess" means to acknowledge that you belong to Jesus. Trying to live a life of secret discipleship is a practical impossibility. This confession must be "before men" as proof of the change on the inside. Romans 10: 9&10 says this "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation".

Those who never openly state the Lordship of Jesus by both their mouths and their lives would be suspect of their repentance. This porch runs across the front of the Palace and is railed to prevent access from any other means except the steps of repentance 2 Corinthians 5: 18-20 "And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

We are at this point ready to enter the Palace, to do that we must go through the door

The First Floor The DOOR

The door to the palace is not made like our doors no it is made like a man and not any man but the man Jesus Christ who said in John 10:9 that "I am the DOOR by me if any man enter he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture." Paul adds this truth "For through him we both have access by one Spirit (Holy Spirit) to the Father". Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God" there are no other doors or windows to come in by like a thief would. Thieves and trespassers try to find other ways into a home or palace. This palace is not like our homes it makes no difference how much you try to come by other means such as any type of works or living right etc. there is still only one way in to the palace and that is through "The Door" Jesus Christ. Upon going through the door we enter the first room.

THE VESTIBULE

This is the vestibule of the new birth without passing through this experience no one can take possession of the palace. This is the place where the top coat of our old life is taken off along with the old shoes of our walk in life, look here at John 3: 5 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. The water here is the word of God it cleans us inside out and the Spirit indwells us and will lead us through the rest of our journey through the palace of the Christian life. Now let us continue on as the vestibule of the new birth opens into.

THE HALL OF JUSTIFICATION

In Romans 5:1 we have this "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" From this "hall" access is had to the whole of the

Palace by doors and stairs. It ends on the first floor in a large hall or room in which is the main stairway.

Being justified—at some point in the past God justified us without our help. He declared us right before Him; and began to treat us as if we were righteous. We are now declared right with God, as though we had never sinned. Neither you nor I deserve to be justified nor can we do anything to earn this great gift. The work necessary to declare you right was accomplished by God through Jesus death on the cross taking our place. This can be illustrated this way “you commit a crime you are then arrested, arraigned and brought before the judge. Once there you find that the penalty is far beyond what you can pay, the alternative is death and as the judge looks at you he sees that there is nothing in you or your life worth pardoning, yet he in his mercy does not want to see the sentence carried out yet he cannot reverse the law or it’s penalty.

The judge then does what only he could do he steps from behind the bench of judgment and declares to the court that he would be taking the place of the guilty one and that the young man would go free and without record of his crime.” Now that is exactly what Jesus did for you and I we were guilty of sin and the punishment for this is death. The only remedy was for Him to leave Heaven and come to earth and take our place on the cross. The sinless one for the sinful, all you or I can do is to accept this gift. This is not a pardon as a pardon keeps the crime on record; this is declaring us to be right in the eyes of the judge. This hall opens into a larger hall known as

PEACE WITH GOD in this hall there is an open “fireplace” over which are the words of Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus” There has to be peace with God first. This is not a feeling of peace but rather a state of peace. Before salvation there exists between a person and God a state of enmity, hostility. We are enemies of God as we see in the following verses. Isaiah 48:22 “There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.” Isaiah states clearly that those who live Godless wicked lives have no peace in their lives and cannot

find peace no matter where they look or what they try to bring peace it will not work. Also James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." History proves that enemies are just that in every aspect of life, they are diametrically opposed and there is no peace. This is how the Lord views us and our state. And Colossians 1:21 "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled".

Paul tells these believers in Colosse that they were aliens and enemies because of their wicked or sinful deeds however that was then but now He has reconciled them. Why? Because of Christ that's why, in Him we go from enemies to being at peace with God. Look here at what Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:5-6 "For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Paul instructs Timothy in that there is only one true God and that He has only one mediator between Him and mankind and that is Jesus Christ. God established Him as this because He willingly gave himself to pay the ransom to buy us out of the slave market of sin. Now for the last 2,000 years we are to have been testifying of this great work in our lives.

The first room off to the right of the hallway and near the Vestibule is the

PARLOR OF HEART REST

Over the door of the Parlor are these words of Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." This verse has such comfort in it, think for a moment of all the burdens of life we carry around each day and the weight they put upon us the aging they do to us. This Parlor is lined with huge overstuffed recliners and couches. The walls are covered in serene colors and vases of flowers. Over the mantel piece hangs an allegorical picture of

the prophet Isaiah's great statement in Isaiah 32:2 "And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest as rivers of water in a dry place as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

Let us look also at Philippians 4:6-8 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things."

At the rear of the room is a picture of Elim, the resting place of Israel after their deliverance from Egypt, where they refreshed themselves under the 70 palm trees and beside them 12 wells. The room is full of music from the sweetest instruments, accompanied by the perfect harmony of heavens choir at once both near and loud and low and away.

Evening chimes call out come worship and the soul fills with peace, causing you to forget all the weariness and sorrow. Realizing you have entered "The rest that remaineth for the people of God" as found in Hebrews 4:9. However you cannot stay in this room as much as it would be of comfort and benefit to your soul you must move on. There are battles yet to be fought so you cross the hall in to the first room on the left into

THE ARMORY

On the plaque over the door are the words of 1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. WE are encouraged to fight the good fight of faith and then keep on fighting until we are called home. This fight has been a continual fight going on for 6,000 years. In this room are preserved many of the

weapons used by God's servants. Here is "Moses Rod" used against Pharaoh. One will also find here the "Hammer and Nail" used by Jael to kill Sisera captain of the Assyrians. In the next display case are "Pitchers, Trumpets and Lamps" used by Gideon and his 300 to rout the army of Midian. A little farther down the wall is the ox-goad that Shamgar used to kill 600 men with. On the back wall is the "Jawbone" that Samson used to kill 1000 Philistines and beside it is the "Sling and Stones" David used on Goliath. There are other items such as "Ram horns", "Handkerchiefs" of healing and the "Cruse" used to hold the widows oil from Zarepeth.

But the purpose of this room is primarily to furnish weapons and armor for Christian warriors. There are racks of helmets, swords, shields, breastplates, girdles and sandals. Paul said "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against Principalities, powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

So we are to put on the armor of God as described in Ephesians 6:13- 17 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; We should pay close attention to the fact that the Lord provided no back armor because we are not to retreat but rather to press on to victory.

Crossing once again the hallway towards the rear of the parlor we come to a small room.

THE OFFICE

This room in the Christian life is here because it is the room of "Christian Stewardship" from which come the funds to carry on all Christian work. It is neatly fitted up with a desk, chair, safe, and shelves to hold reports of active Christian Ministry. There are boxes of envelopes for offerings and Tithes and on each are printed these words of 1 Corinthians 16:2 "Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Giving is to be an act of Worship here is what Paul said in Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

It is to be Spiritual, Systematic, Personal, Proportionate. An open heart cannot maintain a closed hand. Paul said "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him". Over the safe hangs these words found in Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. When your out go exceeds your income then your upkeep is your downfall.

Leaving the "office" we enter in to

THE STUDY

This is a most beautiful room with a circular bay window facing the sun rising, and wonderfully adapted to the early morning study of scriptures. Here is what Paul said on the subject first II Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved

unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. And also II Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. On top of the broad flat top study table are the King James Bible, Concordances, Textbooks, Dictionaries and Commentaries. The shelves that line the room are filled with biographical sketches of Missionaries, Martyrs, and Saints of all ages, church histories, expositions of Bible doctrines, sermons and other Christian evidences. On the wall in front of the study table are the words of John 5: 39 "Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have Eternal Life, and they are they which testify of me.

Those living in the Palace do not just pick up the gold of God's word from the surface but knows to dig deep for those hidden treasures.

Across the hall from the Study we find.

THE PICTUER GALLERY

This room is as beautiful as the "study" with a circular bay window, and as it faces the west the light is good to produce the best effect on the pictures that line its walls.

These pictures are representations of Old and New Testament incidents that bring out in type the Life and Character of the Master. Among the great paintings in the "Gallery" are "Abraham and Isaac", "The Blood upon the Doorposts", "Moses Smiting the Rock", "The Serpent in the Wilderness", "The Scape Goat", "Daniel in the Den of Lions ", "The Transfiguration", "The Crucifixion", "The Resurrection", and "The Ascension." What a wonderful collection to sit and behold every day for a little extra strength. What powerful images and emotions they bring to mind. Now it is just a step out of the room and to the left of the picture gallery is

THE BANQUETING ROOM

Over the door of entrance to this room is painted in large letters "He brought me to "The Banqueting House" and his banner over me was love." Song of Solomon 2:4. In this room the tables are laden with the richest foods and the costly wines, for according to Isaiah 25:6 "The Lord of hosts shall make unto all people a "Feast of Fat Things." A feast of wines on the Lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the Lees well refined. The ceiling and walls of this "Banqueting Room" are richly decorated in fruit and floral designs, and over the side cabinet are the words of John 6:35 "I am the bread of Life he that believeth on me shall never thirst." In the rear of the "Banqueting Room" is "The Kitchen" where the employees of the Palace prepare the feasts that they serve in the Banqueting room. Retracing our steps to the large hall we leave the first floor and ascend the broad stairway, stopping on the first landing to admire the beautiful old grandfather clock that stands there but we quicken our pace as we read on its dial the words of Ephesians 5:16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

The Second Floor

At the top of the stairs and to the right the first room we find appropriately enough is

THE BATHROOM

Here there is every convenience for the cleansing of the soul. We are already clean through the Word as recorded for us in John 15:3 "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." and to have been washed by regeneration as seen in Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; this washing is symbolized by Baptism as stated in Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

However as we draw closer to the Father we need to look in the mirror to see who we really are and how we are doing. Also there is a Laver here to cleanse our Hands (service). Israel's priests had to use the Brazen Laver before they could offer sacrifice. After cleaning up in the bathroom we come to the first main room.

THE CHAMBER OF THE "SURRENDERED WILL"

The door to this chamber is called "Consecration", over it are written the words. "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, which is your reasonable service Romans 12:1 and Romans 6:16-19 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then

made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." The doorway is narrow and only those can enter who are willing to not only give up every known sin but to lay aside every weight that interferes with their running the Christian race Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,. This room is situated over the "Picture Gallery". This room also has a bay window facing west so that as the sun sets the room would fill with Glory. This Radiant Glory fills the occupants with a heavenly light. We now go through a connecting door into

THE CHAMBER OF ASSURANCE

The door to this chamber is not called "feeling" as some suppose but "knowledge". Over this door are the words of John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son "of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life." For wall decorations this room is covered in Bible Verses and whole Passages such as John chapter 10; John 3:36; John 5:24; I John 3:2; Romans 8: 35-39; and a 100 others. This room is of great importance and value; no one should ever leave this room until their soul is satisfied with God's truth.

THE CHAMBER OF JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST

On this door of glass are gold letters edged in red that are from Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. and also Matthew 5:6,9, and 10 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.; Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.; Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the

kingdom of heaven. This room is filled with musical instruments, hymnals, and songs of praise, so that our hearts may rejoice. We may take joy in the inspired Psalms, Hymns, and Songs of those gifted of the Lord. There is one large wall hanging of Psalm 150 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. Our hearts should resound with the sound of praise toward the Lord at all times. From here it is but a step across the hall to the

THE CHAMBER OF VICTORY OVER SIN

To go there one must first have been in the room of the "Surrendered Will" because without this there will never be victory in a believers life. Over this room are the wonderful words of I John 3:6 "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not." The uniqueness of this room is the "Symbols of Death" on one wall is a picture of "Christ Crucified" with the caption "I am crucified with Christ" from Galatians 2:20. On the opposing wall is a picture of the empty tomb of one Joseph of Arimethea. The caption for this painting is from Colossians 3:1 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." The whole of this room is summed up in the words of Romans 6:11 " Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." we are to die to our old selves and to rise into the new life that is Jesus Christ and allow Him to live through you and for you.

In leaving this room on the same side we go to the next room where we find.

THE CHAMBER OF PATIENCE

On the door are the words of James 1:4 "Let patience have her perfect work." This room is for the purpose of getting away from the stress and concerns of the world when out into the hall we step into the room directly over the Study into

THE CHAMBER OF PEACE

The door to this room has on it the words of Isaiah 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee' It was in a chamber similar to this that the pilgrim traveler Christian laid his weary head. The sun rising in the east gently floods the room. The warm rays touching your face gently waking you, from the best nights sleep ever, why? It's the chamber of the Peace of God, and on the wall opposite your bed there hangs a plaque with the words of Philippians 4:7 " And the Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." The furniture and room decorations are very soothing. Every part and color of this room is designed for the one purpose to bring rest to the soul. This chamber of peace connects with a private room.

THE CHAMBER OF FASTING AND PRAYER

One who is resting in the Chamber of Peace needs to come into this room every morning before breakfast and commune with God the Father. This little room has no windows, so that no outside activity can intrude. However it does have a skylight so that you can turn your face toward the Throne of the Father of Grace and Mercy. In this small room is a small closet it is dark yet reflecting the character of the home owner? It is a "Wine Closet" into which, either before or after prayer one is directed to go and be filled. The command is on the door in large bold letters from Ephesians 5:18 "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit" From a room like this one a room of prayer and fasting with its closet filled with the New Wine of the Holy Spirit that the One Hundred and Twenty emerged on the morning of the Day of

Pentecost as God intoxicated men. There is one more room yet to enter

THE CHAMBER OF GOD'S LOVE

This room is located in the front over the porch. It is circular, totally in glass even the domed roof is glass for the purpose of providing a great SON BATH. To sit here is the key to "Spiritual health from "the Son of Righteousness." Which fill the soul with Spiritual Vitality and Vigor? The motto over the door is from Jude 21 "Keep yourself in the love of God" And last but not least is the

OBSERVATORY

It is on the roof and is accessed by the main stairs. The view is breath taking. The most beautiful scene is to the south. There in the distance are the vineyards and orchards, springs, and fountains. The sun is shining strong and bright. It is within view of the "Celestial City". It is called the "Land of Beulah" and from its hill tops on clear nights the Celestial City glows. All these things are clearly seen by the "Eye of the soul" from the "Observatory" of the palace Paul tells us in I Corinthians 2:9-10 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Friends our palace is not a dream it is a Palace that only the Spirit can know and experience. It is quite real and accessible only you can decide to go there.

