After Christian was pulled through the Wicket-gate by Goodwill, he was told to continue on the narrow path until he came to Interpreter’s House where he would be shown many excellent things. These images or emblems are for his good as he prepares for a lifetime of walking with God. Out of the seven, we have examined two - and now move to our third.
Images for the Journey

1. A picture of a very serious person hanging on the wall
2. A very large parlor that was full of dust
3. Passion and Patience
4. A fire burning against a wall
5. A beautiful, stately palace
6. The man in the cage
7. The man who dreamed about the final judgment
“Interpreter took him by the hand and led him into a little room, where two children were sitting in chairs. The name of the older one was Passion, and the other one was called Patience. Passion seemed to be very discontented, but Patience was very quiet.”
“Then Christian asked, ‘What is the reason Passion is so discontented?’ The Interpreter answered, ‘His guardian wants him to wait for the best things until the beginning of next year; but he wants it all now. Patience, on the other hand, is willing to wait.’”
“These two children are figures: Passion, representing the people of this world; and Patience, representing the people of the world which is to come. As you have noticed, Passion wants everything this year. In other words, he wants everything in this world. And people of the world are just like that: they must have every good thing now; they cannot wait until next year, that is, until the next world, for their
portion of good things. The proverb, ‘A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,’ has more authority with them than all of God’s truths about the good things that will be given in the world to come. You saw that he quickly wasted everything and had nothing left but rags. It will be that way for all people like him when the world comes to an end.”
A Comparison

**Passion**
- Discontented
- Wants it all now
- Mocks and laughs at Patience
- Represents the people of this world
- Wants everything in this world
- Wasted everything and has nothing left but rags
- The glories of this world suddenly disappear

**Patience**
- Very quiet
- Willing to wait
- Represents the people of the world which is to come
- Has the best wisdom
- Waits for the best things
- Will receive his glory when Passion has nothing but rags
- The glory of the next world will never wear out
The Biblical Meaning of Passion

• **Passion**, *n.*, any strong, controlling, or overpowering emotion, as desire, hate, fear, etc.; an intense feeling or impulse.

• The Greek word *pathos* indicates “raw, strong feelings (emotions) which are not guided by God (like consuming lust).”

• “For this reason God gave them over to degrading *passions*; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural” (Rom. 1:26).
The Biblical Meaning of Passion

• “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, **passion**, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry” (Col. 3:5). In this context, passion means “inordinate affection.”

• Notice the connection between Paul’s list of sins and idolatry. “You shall have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:3).
Anatomy of Passion

- Passions may easily conquer our reason.
- Longings may be endless: “All day long he (the arrogant, prideful man) craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back” (Prov. 21:26).
- Our passions emanate from our old nature: “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another...” (Gal. 5:17).
Anatomy of Passion

• **Coveting is a violation of the Tenth Commandment**: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbors” (Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21).

• “Pride makes a god of self, covetousness makes a god of money” (Matthew Henry).
“In a shipwreck one of the passengers fastened a belt about him with two hundred pounds of gold in it, with which he was afterward found at the bottom. Now, as he was sinking – had he the gold? Or had the gold him?”

John Ruskin
1819-1900
Anatomy of Passion

• The temptations we experience arise from our own passions and lust: “But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust” (James 1:14).

• Our passions are temporary: “And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever” (I Jn. 2:17).
God & Mammon

• How does Jesus treat the subject of our passions?

• “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon” (Lk. 16:13).

• Mammon means “money, wealth, property.”
“Jesus’ use of ‘Mammon’ is unique – he gave it strength and precision that the word never had before. He did not usually personify things, let alone deify them. And neither the Jews nor the nearby pagans knew a god by this name. But what Jesus says in speaking of Mammon is that money is a power – and not in a vague sense, as in the ‘force’ of words. Rather, money is a power in the sense that it is an active agent with
Os Guinness on “Mammon”

decisive spiritual power and is never neutral. It is a power before we use it, not simply as we use it or whether we use it well or badly. As such Mammon is a genuine rival to God. The recurring biblical demand confronts us: ‘You shall not worship the work of your hands.’”
“Jesus challenged his hearers to choose one master or another – God or Mammon. Either we serve God and use money or we serve money and use God. Ultimately we follow what we have loved most intensely to its natural destination – eternity or death – ‘for where your treasure is, there will your heart be too.’”

Os Guinness
Return on Investment

• Let’s suppose that one ignores the biblical teaching on God and Mammon and freely chooses the pathway of Mammon. Does Mammon offer favorable consequences and a return on investment that would ultimately cause that person great joy or deep regret?

• Let’s take a look at a well-known parable.
Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by
angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during
The Rich Man & Lazarus

your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.’’

- Luke 16:19-26
The Prosperity of the Wicked

- They have no pangs until death.
- Their bodies are fat and sleek.
- They are not in trouble as others are.
- They are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
- Pride is their necklace.
- Violence covers them as a garment.
- Their eyes swell out through fatness.
- Their hearts overflow with follies.
The Prosperity of the Wicked

- The scoff and speak with malice.
- They threaten oppression.
- They set their mouths against the heavens.
- They say, “How can God know?”
- They are always at ease and increase in riches.
Perceiving Their End

- God sets them in slippery places.
- He makes them fall to ruin.
- They are destroyed in a minute.
- They are swept away utterly by terrors.
Psalm 73:25-28

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my life and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; and you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.”
Moses’ Example

“By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.”
“But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position; and let the rich man glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.”

- James 1:9-11
“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Mt. 6:19-21).
The Biblical Meaning of Patience

• The New Testament word means “to be long-tempered, calm, self-possessed waiting; wait patiently.”

• “Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains” (James 5:7).
“For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, ‘I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you.’ And thus, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise” (Hebrews 5:13-15).
“As for property and material wealth, these you should ever hold in fear.”
“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”
On Being Patience

It is only in Jesus Christ that the lusts of our flesh are conquered by his power and grace and replaced with contentment and the patience to wait for the coming King who knows the difference between treasure on earth and treasure in heaven.