In our last study, our main character, Christian, encountered three men sound asleep with chains on their ankles – Simple, Sloth, and Presumption. After trying to awaken them and hearing their lame answers, they all lay down to sleep again while Christian went on his way toward the Celestial City. He was troubled to think that these men, who were in such danger, would rebuff someone who tried to help them.
“As he [Christian] was troubled, he saw two men climbing over the wall on the left-hand side of the narrow way, and they caught up with him. The name of the one was Formalist, and the name of the other was Hypocrisy. Having come alongside of Christian, they began to talk together.”
Coming Over The Wall

Christian released from his Burden.

Formalism & Hypocrisy coming into the way over the wall.
A Sketch of These Two Men

- Both men were born in the land of Vainglory.
- In their minds, they were making their journey to Mount Zion (heaven).
- Neither came into the Way through the Wicket-Gate; they had been counseled to take a short cut by climbing over the wall.
- They followed the custom of their land, a practice that had continued for over 1,000 years.
The Land of Vainglory

• **Definition of Vainglory**: Glory that is vain, empty, or worthless; inordinate or unwarranted pride in one's accomplishments or qualities; disposition or tendency to exalt oneself unduly; idle boasting or vaunting (OED).

• **Warren Wiersbe**: “Empty glory. The glory of man is vain because it does not endure. ‘All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass’” (I Pt. 1:24).
“This is the length of time Roman Catholicism had, in Puritan eyes, obscured the doctrine of justification by faith through its insistence on the merit of works and had substituted for inner Christian commitment a formal religion of external observance and ceremony such as the established Church of England continued to promote by its determination to enforce conformity to its liturgy” (Keeble).
“At this moment the King, who had been for some time busily writing in his note-book, called out ‘Silence!’ and read from his book, ‘Rule Forty-Two. All persons more than a mile high to leave the court.’

Everybody looked at Alice.

“I’m not a mile high,” said Alice.

“You are,” said the King.
“Nearly two miles high,” added the Queen.
“Well, I shan’t go, at any rate,” said Alice: “besides, that’s not a regular rule: you invented it just now.”
“It’s the oldest rule in the book,” said the King.
“Then it ought to be Number One,” said Alice.
“...it is ‘tradition’ if it is pronounced to be so by adequate authority...It is tradition that is involved when people say ‘This is what we have always done’ or ‘This is what we were always taught.’”

F.F. Bruce
1910-1990
A Sketch of These Two Men

• They maintained that it made no difference how they got in the Way. “If we are in, we are in.”

• They challenged Christian, asking, “How is your condition better than ours?”

• They were warned that they would be considered thieves by the Lord of the Way.

• They told Christian to mind his own business.
A Sketch of These Two Men

• They were confident that they kept the laws and ordinances just as conscientiously as Christian.

• The only difference they saw between them and Christian was the coat on Christian’s back (they believed it was given by some of Christian’s neighbors to hide the shame of his nakedness).
“We see plainly that as a clear-sighted Christian looks back upon his own experience, he sees himself in many aspects, and through the prism of his own nature he sees a thousand others; he sees, through and through, the motives, thoughts, feelings, veils, and hiding-places of every possible variety of the children of this world, because he has been one of them.” – G.B. Cheever
Hypocrite
What Is A Hypocrite?

• Our English word, hypocrite, comes from the Greek word, hypocrités, meaning hypocrite, pretender, dissembler (to alter or disguise the semblance of one's character, a feeling, design, or action so as to conceal, or deceive as to, its real nature).

• It is used by Aristotle and Plato for one who plays a part on the stage; a player, and actor. The actor is an interpreter of the poet. This fits with the original sense of the word, to expound, to interpret.
A Portrait of a Hypocrite

1. **Hypocrites long to be honored by men.** “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full” (Mt. 6:2).

2. **Hypocrites love to pray in public to be seen by men.** “But when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites...” (Mt. 6:5).
A Portrait of a Hypocrite

3. Hypocrites look somber and disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do...” (Mt. 6:15).

4. Hypocrites notice the speck in their brother’s eye, but ignore the plank in their own. “You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Mt. 7:5).
5. Hypocrites nullify the word of God for the sake of their traditions. "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men" (Mt. 15:6-7).
A Portrait of a Hypocrite

6. Hypocrites have evil intent and try to trap Jesus in His words. “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax” (Mt. 22:18-19).

7. Hypocrites shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. “You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to” (Mt. 23:13).
9. Hypocrites are only concerned about the **outward appearance**. “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence” (Mt. 23:25).
A Portrait of a Hypocrite

10. Hypocrites look beautiful on the outside but are full of dead man’s bones on the inside. “...on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness” (Mt. 23:27).

11. Hypocrites will be condemned forever. “...assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mt. 24:51).
“Hypocrisy means play-acting. It refers to the evil habit of hiding one’s real self behind a mask. It amounts to insincerity. Hypocrisy is dishonesty, deception.”
What Is A Formalist?

- **Formalism** is “the disposition to exalt what is formal or outward at the expense of what is spiritual; the practice of using forms of worship and of religious profession without real devotion or conviction.”

- A **formalist** is “one who formally adheres to the prevailing system; one who has the form of religion without the power.”

- “The Ceremonies are Idols to Formalists” (G. Gillespie).
“Formalism itself is hypocrisy; and where a man does only deceive himself, by the concealment from himself of his own true character as a sinner, and by trusting in some other refuge than Christ, that man is a hypocrite, for he pretends to be a great deal better than he is; nay, he pretends to have goodness enough for his salvation, without coming in by the door, when God knows it is all rottenness and a lie.”
“Here is the essential difference between a real Christian and formal hypocrites: he takes the word of God for the warrant of his faith, and the rule of his conduct, which they reject, for they are left under the power of their natural will and carnal reason, and hence they brace it out for a season, with vain hopes and confidences” (Mason).
Formalist vs. Hypocrisy

• A **formalist** is a person who practices religious forms but does not possess real salvation. He may be very sincere, but his religion is vain.

• A **hypocrite** deliberately deceives others.
“There appears today another theory (in ethics)...which emphasizes the unrestricted right of the Self, of the individuality...This is the ethic of ‘self-expression.’ If this ethic were logically carried out it would utterly destroy all systems of ethics. The whole of ethics would be summed up in one sentence: ‘Always do what you like best! For you there are no rules, save one: to obey no rule.’”
Bunyan’s Primary Verse: John 10:1
• “Truly, truly I say to you, He who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber” (NASV).

• “Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he’s up to no good – a sheep rustler!” (The Message).
Sheepcote or Sheepfold

• A sheepfold is a slight building for sheltering sheep; a sheephouse.

• At night the sheep would be driven into a sheepfold if they were in a district where there was danger from robbers or wild beasts.

• These folds are simple walled enclosures with thorny brushwood heaped on top of the walls as added protection.
“He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens, from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them” (Ps. 78:71).
The teachers of Israel were totally unfit for “their professed work of feeding the flock of God...They were, surely, not shepherds, who had cast out the healed blind man, or who so judged of the Christ, and would cast out all His disciples. They had entered into God’s Sheepfold, but not by the door by which the owner, God, had brought His flock into the fold. To it the entrance had been His free love, His gracious provision,
His thoughts of pardoning, His purpose of saving mercy. That was God’s Old Testament-door into His Sheepfold. Not by that door, as had so lately fully appeared, had Israel’s rulers come in. They had climbed up to their place in the fold some other way – with the same right, or by the same wrong, as a thief or a robber. They had wrongfully taken what did not belong to them – cunningly and undetected, like a thief; they had
allotted it to themselves, and usurped it by violence, like a robber. What more accurate description could be given of the means by which the Pharisees and Sadducees had attained the rule over God’s flock, and claimed it for themselves? And what was true of them hold equally so of all, who, like them, enter by ‘some other way.’”
“Christ here says (John 10) plainly that we are not to regard as shepherds all who claim the title, nor reckon as sheep all who boast the outward marks.”

John Calvin
1509-1564
"When they saw the hill was steep and high, they also noticed there were two other ways to go. Supposing that these two ways might meet with the one Christian was traveling on, they determined to go the easier routes (now the name of one of those ways was Danger, and the name of the other, Destruction). So the one took the way which is called Danger, and it led him into a great wood; the other took the road
called Destruction which led him into a wide field full of dark mountains where he stumbled and fell, and never stood again.”
Is Jesus The Only Savior?

• No! (This position is commonly called pluralism; there are many paths to salvation and Jesus is only one of them).

• Yes, but... (This position is commonly called inclusivism because its adherents believe that the scope of God’s salvation is significantly wider than that held by exclusivists).
Yes, period! (This view is called *exclusivism* because it teaches that there is one exclusive way whereby men and women can approach God and receive His salvation: Jesus Christ.)
“Whoever gives up the article of justification does not know the true God. It is one and the same thing whether a person reverts to the Law or to the worship of idols. When the article of justification is lost, nothing remains except error, hypocrisy, godlessness, and idolatry.”