The Pilgrim’s Progress

Chapter 13: By-ends and Demas, Part 1
After Faithful was falsely accused, tried, tortured, burned at the stake, and carried up in a chariot through the clouds to the Celestial City, God made a way for Christian to escape Vanity Fair. While grieving the loss of his companion and friend, Christian met Hopeful, a man who had come to Christ in Vanity Fair by observing the words and behavior of Christian and Faithful.
“Live a godly, gracious life, and you will not escape persecution. You may be happily circumstanced so as to live among earnest Christians and so escape persecution; but take the average Christian man, and he will have a hard time of it if he is faithful. The ungodly will revile those who are true to the Lord Jesus. Christians are ridiculed in the workshop, they are pointed out in the street, and an opprobrious
name is hooted at them. Persecution acts as a winnowing fan, and those who are light as chaff are driven away by its blast; but those who are true corn remain, and are purified. Careless of man’s esteem, the truly God-fearing man holds on his way, and fears the Lord for ever.”
“The oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed.”

- Tertullian’s Apology, 50
“And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (II Tim. 3:12).

“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also” (John 15:20).

“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).
Bunyan writes: “So one died to bear testimony to the truth (Faithful), and another arose out of his ashes to be a companion with Christian in his pilgrimage. Hopeful also told Christian that there were many more men in the fair who would follow them in due time.”

After Christian and Hopeful left the fair, they caught up with a man named By-ends.
Personal Reflection

• Throughout Scripture and church history, God has provided companions for his servants, having revealed that “two are better than one” (Eccl. 4:9). Bunyan specifically tells us that Hopeful made a covenant with Christian.

• Do you have someone in your life who encourages you, holds you accountable, and is vitally interested in your walk with Christ and your general well-being?
By-ends

• By-end, *n.* an object lying aside from the main one; a subordinate end or aim; *especially* a secret selfish purpose, a covert purpose of private advantage (OED).

• “Love is quite pure; it hath no by-ends” (William Law).

• “A man with a double aim or by-end” (E.M. Goulburn, 1818-1897).
By-ends

• The Oxford World Classics publication of The Pilgrim’s Progress references By-ends as “incidental or secondary considerations. The figure represents a worldliness which, through dubious casuistry, compromises Christian commitment.”

• Casuistry is an evasive way of dealing with difficult ethical cases in which there appears to be a conflict of duties.
Details of By-ends’ Life

• **From Fair-speech:** “Though his speech is charming, do not believe him, for seven abominations fill his heart” (Prov. 26:25).

• **His relatives:** Lord Turn-about, Lord Time-server, Lord Fair-speech, Mr. Smooth-man, Mr. Facing-both-ways, Mr. Any-thing.

• **His pastor:** Mr. Two-tongues (his mother’s brother).
His grandfather ferried people across the water, looking one way and rowing another. “These Waterman politicians, looking one way and rowing another” (1804, Chester Federalism). “Her government is looking one way and rowing another” (Thomas Jefferson).
Details of By-ends’ Life

- **His mother-in-law:** Lady Feigning. *To feign* means to invent a story, to contrive a deception, to pretend.
- **General Rule:** By-ends and his relatives differ from those who are stricter (the Puritans) in two ways: (1) They never strive against wind and tide; (2) They are always the most zealous when religion travels in his silver slippers.
“And seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.”

- Mark 6:48
“The disciples were in distress at sea; The wind was contrary, so that they toiled in rowing, and could not get forward. This was a specimen of the hardships they were to expect, when hereafter he should send them abroad to preach the gospel; it would be like sending them to sea at this time with the wind in their teeth: they must expect to toil in rowing, they must work hard to strive against so strong a stream;
they must likewise expect to be tossed with waves, to be persecuted by their enemies; and by exposing them now he intended to train them up for such difficulties, that they might learn to endure hardness. The church is often like a ship at sea, tossed with tempests, and not comforted. We may have Christ for us, and yet wind and tide against us; but it is a comfort to Christ's disciples in a storm, that their Master is in the heavenly mount, interceding for them.”
By-ends’ Character

“His name denotes not only his character but also the nature of the religion he professes. His religion is used to gain friends, fortune, and applause, but if persecution should arise because of strict adherence to the Word, he will deny his supposed profession of faith every time. By-ends’ motto was always, ‘What’s in it for me?’”
Christian Confronts By-ends

• “If you go with us, you must go against wind and tide.”

• By-ends’ response:
  – You must not impose your views on me
  – You must not be the lord over my faith
  – Let me do what I want
  – I will never desert my old principles
  – I must do as I did before you caught up with me
Religion in Golden Slippers

• Take every advantage to secure your life and estate.
• Be for religion when the times and your safety will bear it.
• Be content to take the fair weather along with you. Avoid the rain.
• God has given you good things in this life and He wants you to keep them for His sake.
Religion in Golden Slippers

• Believe in Scripture and reason.
• Become extraordinarily religious if it will help you obtain good things.
• Alter your principles to fit the disposition of other people.
• Use your religion to obtain a better salary, a rich spouse, and more and better customers.
• Becoming religious is virtuous – period.
• **It is unlawful to follow Christ for bread.**
  
  “Jesus answered them and said, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled’” (John 6:26).

• **The Pharisees used this religion.** Their long prayers were their pretense, but they really wanted to take widows’ houses away from them.
• **Judas was religious** about the money bag in order to take from it at will.

• **Simon the sorcerer wanted the Holy Spirit** so he could get money (Acts 8:19-20).

• Anyone who **takes up religion** for the world will **throw away religion** for the world.
None of the four men – Mr. Hold-the-world, Mr. Money-love, Mr. Save-all, or Mr. By-ends – could say anything to Christian. They stood staring at one another, not having the wisdom to answer him.

Christian: “If these men cannot stand before the sentence of men, what will they do with the sentence of God?”
• First, let’s **take our eyes off By-ends** and his friends and look inwardly at our own hearts.

• Recognize that only our omniscient **God can see into our hearts and motives** as they really are. “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar...Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!” (Ps. 139:1,2,23).
Personal Reflection

• Acknowledge that some people are able to look into the window of their own souls, while others only look through other’s windows. “As for my secret thoughts, I took no notice of them at all” (John Bunyan).

• Pray for a growing contrition of heart and a growing humility.
Personal Reflection

• Ask God to use His Word to purify our hearts: “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Heb. 4:12).
Personal Reflection

• By grace, we ought to strangle our sins as soon as they are born. Resist the very first beginnings of sin, even in thought.
• Watch, acknowledge, and cherish all of your secret, spontaneous, loving, and adoring thoughts about Jesus Christ.
Edison was once asked whether he ever expected to be able to invent an instrument to enable a man to see down into his neighbor’s secret thoughts.
“Even if I could construct such a terrible instrument, God forbid that I should ever publish it to the world. For did we all see down into the secret thoughts of one another about one another, human life would no longer be bearable on the earth. There would not be two friends left to trust one another, and to love one another, in the whole world. Family life itself would instantly fly into pieces. Human society,
in all its combinations, would at once become dissolved. For all men would flee to the rocks, and to the mountains, and would cry to them, ‘Fall on us and hide us and all our secret thoughts from before the faces of men.’”
“This passage in the pilgrimage is full of instruction, and we might dwell long upon it, and upon the danger of evil motives under the guise of a good cause, or of unholy motives in a holy cause. The motive is everything; it makes the man. An eye single makes a single-minded man: an eye double makes a double-minded man.”

- G.B. Cheever, D.D.
“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon.”