

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

1/14/2018

Today we continue our study of our Christian Heritage with a continued study of the Pilgrims and the Puritans

I. THE NAMING OF THE PILGRIMS

- A. Originally they were called "Separatist."*
- B. Eventually they changed their name to "Pilgrims" because of Hebrews (Heb 11:13) "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."*

II. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PILGRIMS AND PURITANS

- A. The main difference was their attitude toward the Church of England.*
 - 1. The Pilgrims felt led by God to separate from it:*
 - a. The Pilgrims felt there was too much control over the church by the state.*
 - b. It became unlawful to have a prayer meeting without the approval of the state.*
 - c. A church could not be established without the state's blessing.*
 - d. They left the church of England and fled to Holland for 12 years.*
 - e. In 1620 they left Holland for America.*
 - 2. The Puritans stayed in the State Church after the Pilgrims left.*
 - a. The Puritans believed they could purify the State church.*
 - b. The word "Puritan" comes from the word "purify."*
 - c. Time proved the task to change the church to be utterly impossible.*

- d. *Approximately 10 years after the Pilgrims left the church the Puritans also left.*
- 3. *There was a difference in the way they elected their preachers;*
 - a. *The Pilgrims elected their own preachers.*
 - b. *In the Anglican Church (Puritans) the bishops elected their preachers.*
- 4. *The Pilgrims did not require someone to be a member of the church in order to vote. But the Puritans did.*

III. THE PURITANS IN AMERICA

- A. *During the great migration nearly 20,000 Puritans came to America.*
- B. *The Puritans of Massachusetts believed God had called them to evangelize the Indians.*
- C. *John Eliot became the Apostle to the Indians;*
 - 1. *Mr Eliot developed a written language to the Indian tongue.*
 - 2. *He labored 12 years to write their first Bible.*
 - 3. *The Bible was published in 1658 in the language of the Indians.*
 - 4. *As the result of his preaching 14 villages were completely converted.*
- D. *The First Charter of Massachusetts was granted by King Charles I in 1629 and stated that: "The winning of the natives of the country to the knowledge and obedience of the only true God and Savior of mankind, and the Christian faith...is the principal end of this plantation."*
- E. *The Great Seal of Massachusetts depicted an Indian speaking the words, "Come over and help us."*
- F. *Puritan evangelism was so successful that by the end of the 17th century, Martha's Vineyard, an island off the cost of Cape Cod, populated by Indians had been completely evangelized.*
- G. *The first Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was John Winthrop;*
 - 1. *He was known as a person who fervently loved our Lord!*

2. *He was the first Governor of Massachusetts.*
3. *He was one of the best educated Puritans in the Colonies.*
4. *He was an educated English Puritan Lawyer.*
5. *The spiritual belief system of Winthrop toward God was:*
 - a. *Praying for the grace to the poor in spirit.*
 - b. *Pledging to walk humbly before God, and meekly, mildly, and gently towards all men.*
 - c. *Resolving to give his life, wits, health, and wealth to the service of My God and Savior.*
 - d. *Acknowledging his unfaithfulness and pride of heart.*
 - e. *Turning again to God, and humbling his soul before Him.*
 - f. *Renewing his covenant of walking with God, and watching his heart and ways.*
6. *The compassionate leadership of Winthrop is seen by his actions;*
 - a. *He personally gave the last handful of meal he possessed to a starving settler, just before a ship loaded with supplies arrived.*
 - b. *He sold his lands in England in order to feed the colony out of his own pocket.*
 - c. *He governed the settlers as if they were his own children.*
 - d. *He treated the Indians with dignity and respect.*

IV. THE NEW ENGLAND PURITANS LAYED A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF AMERICA.

- A. *History records that the Puritans were not sour, gloomy bigots.*
- B. *The Puritans were deeply committed to practicing the New Testament as any group of Christians in our nation's history.*
- C. *Nothing in history surpasses the teaching and preaching of the original Puritans.*

1. *Liberty and justice for all was the core of their belief structure.*
2. *Love for God and love for one's neighbor was paramount in their teachings.*
3. *Their deepest desire was to live a deeply rooted Christ centered life!*
4. *They were determined to create a Church that in doctrine, worship, and practice would reflect the teachings and example of the New Testament Church.*

D. Their covenant quotes stated;

1. *This love among Christians is a real thing.*
2. *We are a company...fellow members of Christ.*
3. *We ought to account ourselves knit together by this bond of love.*
4. *We must be knit together in this work as one man.*
5. *We must hold a familiar commerce together.*
6. *We must delight in each other.*
7. *We must make one another's condition our own.*
8. *We must rejoice together.*
9. *We must mourn together.*
10. *We must labor and suffer together.*
11. *So shall we keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

V. "ONE ANOTHER" FOR TODAY.

A. The phrase, "One another" is used 39 times in the New Testament

1. *1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort **one another** with these words.*
2. *Heb 10:24 And let us consider **one another** to provoke unto love and to good works:*
3. *1Jo 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to **love one another**.*

B. The Bible established the truth, the Puritans followed it and set an example for us to follow!