Introduction

The Pilgrim’s Progress by John Bunyan

(Show the picture of Pilgrim. You could put the title and author of the book on the same page.)

We are pilgrims on a journey.

Our goal is heaven – the New Jerusalem.

Our eyes are on Christ, the trailblazer, who has opened the way for us to heaven.

This passage is about priorities for pilgrims.

I. Be Strong. Verses 12-13

If we are going to run this race to the end, it will require great strength.

We need:

- A good diet – the Word and prayer.
- Exercise – worship and service, faith and obedience.
- Training – better equipped.
- Partners – concern for others on the journey.
- Level Paths – clear out the clutter.
- Courage.

“Be of good courage Master Ridley and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England as I trust shall never be put out.” Hugh Latimer

Be men of courage.

II. Be Peacemakers. Verse 14

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men.”

- Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
- Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.
- If it is possible, as far as it depends upon you, live at peace with everyone.
- Do not take revenge.
- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-21
We need to deal with our heart.
“For man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.” James 1:20

How do we relate to the world and people around us?
“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:14

III. Be Holy. Verse 14

“Make every effort to be holy.”

Many people have a distorted view of holiness.
To be holy is to be set apart for a purpose – for Christ.
A holy person is a whole person.
“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.” The Westminster Confession
To be holy, we also need to deal with the sin in our life.

IV. Be Mindful. Verses 15-17

We are to look out for one another and he mentions four areas of concern.

- Apostasy – “see to it that no one misses the grace of God”.
- Bitterness – A bitter root can cause a lot of trouble and affect many people.
- Sexual Immorality – affects the very core of our being.
- Godlessness – A godless person lives without giving any thought to God and his ways.

Esau was a man who lived by his appetites.
He never really repented of his sin. He just regretted the consequences.

Conclusion

We are pilgrims on a journey.

God has called us to:

- Be Strong.
- Be Peacemakers.
- Be Holy.
- Be mindful.