

The Holy War Study Guide – Week 18

What primary Bible passages come to your mind as you read this assignment?

To what degree does the story accurately reflect Bible teaching?

While Diabolus has a fixation with holding war councils and customizing strategies aimed at Mansoul's fall, a recovered Mansoul under Lord Will-be-will's and Captain Self-denial's leadership has developed a fixation with ridding the town of as many Diabolonians as possible. One wave of cleansing after another has taken place throughout the story, yet another, often powerful Diabolonian always seems to have eluded their sweeps. The Diabolonians not only are located with great difficulty, but they prove hard to kill, and they are prone to find ways of escape. The recent demise of Evil-questioning (last reading) becomes the catalyst for yet another diligent search to rid the town of Diabolonians, their children, and even their houses. Their pedigrees are always extensive.

As the story ends, no fewer than 16 additional Diabolonians are found and rigorous, though not always successful, attempts are made to suppress and rid the town of them.

- *Mr. Fooling* – executed by hanging after being found in Want-wit-alley
- *Mr. Let-good-slip* – executed after being found in the market place; his wealth was bequeathed to Mr. Meditation and his wife, Mrs. Piety, and to Mr. Meditation's son, Mr. Think-well

“Great is the advantage of meditation; a practice, alas! In which Christians in general are too backward. And O how much is lost by letting the word slip, which ought to be laid up, and pondered in the heart. This is the way to become spiritually rich” (*The Holy War*, Illustrated with notes by George Burder, Reiner edition, 441).

- *Mr. Slavish-fear*
- *Mr. No-love*
- *Mr. Mistrust*
- *Mr. Flesh*
- *Mr. Sloth*
- *Mr. Doubt* (eldest son of Evil-questioning)
- *Mr. Legal Life* (son of Evil-questioning) – arrested and imprisoned until his death
- *Mr. Unbelief* (nimble son of Evil-questioning) – though many attempts were made to arrest and detain him, **he continued to lurk among the Mansoulians**

- *Mr. Wrong-thoughts of Christ* (son of Evil-questioning) – arrested, imprisoned, died of consumption
- *Mr. Clip-promise* (son of Evil-questioning) – arrested, put in the pillory (public stocks), whipped by all the children and servants in Mansoul, then hanged until dead. His ambition had been to “clip” the strength or force of the promises of Shaddai.
- *Mr. Carnal-sense* (son of Evil-questioning) – **arrested and imprisoned, but inexplicably escapes, lurking about the town. A bounty is put on his head.**
- *Mr. Live-by-feeling* (son of Evil-questioning) – arrested and imprisoned until his death
- *Mr. Self-love* (son of Evil-questioning) – arrested and imprisoned, but because of his friendship with many Mansoulans, they were loath to put him to trial quickly. Only at Captain Self-Denial’s insistence was Mr. Self-love turned over to the soldiers to be brained.

“Self-denial must be opposed to self-love” (*The Holy War*, Illustrated with notes by George Burder, Reiner edition, 444).

- *Mrs. Evil-questioning* – No-hope, daughter of Mr. Dark

The allegory concludes with a most-touching, helpful oration from Immanuel to the town. Immanuel unveils His heart to them, delineating His expectations, teaching them His methods, and explaining His purposes. He also alerts them to the reality that He will himself one day take the town of Mansoul apart, but only as a preliminary step to rebuilding it even more gloriously in His Father’s land.

Reconstruct a list of the “many and great privileges” that Immanuel made available to Mansoul.

How can a rehearsal of these great privileges be an antidote to falling?

Reconstruct Immanuel’s list of ways He worked to show His faithfulness and love, when they did not know it was Him.

Identify the blessings and privileges promised by Immanuel that are still future for Mansoul.

Immanuel, in his wisdom is counseling the people to constantly reviewing His present blessings, His past provisions, and His future blessings as an aid to living safely in the present world. May this constant exercise of the discipline of Christian remembering be true of us!

Immanuel's concern is for the Mansouliaus to learn the proper care of their liveries or robes. What Bible truths does Bunyan capture here to bring the necessity and reality of confession home to us?

Discuss Immanuel's purposes for leaving Diabolonians among them. Are you able to use the presence of Diabolonians in your own life to benefit spiritually from temptation?

Thus we have followed the ingenious and judicious author through this truly excellent work, making use of his own marginal key to unlock the curious cabinet, and expose the valuable contents. May every reader be found among those who are restored by grace to the kingdom of Immanuel, and who, having overcome, shall sit down with him on his throne of glory. To Him, even to the Lamb that was slain, who hath redeemed us to God by His blood; to Him be glory, in all the churches, world without end. Amen. (*The Holy War*, Illustrated with notes by George Burder, Reiner edition, 454).