

The Pilgrim Separatists



Their noble vision

The Pilgrims were part of a greater movement, stretching back to Wycliffe and Tyndale, to place the Scriptures into the hands of the common man. Yet what they tried to do with the Scriptures is virtually unknown, even though their moving story is told year after year in America.

These brave men and women had more in their hearts than the noble idea we associate with them: religious freedom. That was part of it, but they came for more than a safe haven for their children from the worldly temptations of Holland. They actually came to recreate on the shores of America the life of the first-century church.

To bring the Kingdom of God to earth

Initially the Pilgrims shared all things in common, not just as a business arrangement with their financial backers, but as an expression of their fervent faith. They were out to bring the Kingdom of God to earth.

At the least, they sought to be “stepping-stones” for those who might come after them, one small candle that may light a thousand.



In their own estimation, they failed. They didn't become what they wanted to, but settled for something far less. This was their sorrow, their heartache, and their profound disappointment. The Pilgrim story raises deep questions about the dream, the cost, and even the possibility of bringing the Kingdom of God to earth.