

The Pilgrim Separatists

The plowboy in Scrooby

William Tyndale insisted on the necessity of the common man knowing the Scriptures so as to no longer being held in ignorance. In response to a clergyman critical of his translation efforts, Tyndale said,

If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scripture than thou dost.

It did cost him his life, but some seventy years after his death, around 1604, that plowboy joined a group of Separatists in Scrooby, England — twelve-year-old William Bradford. It was a decision that would cost him much suffering, for the wrath of the English church and state soon came upon them.



As Bradford would write in his journal, the evil one was...

loath his kingdom should go down, the truth prevail and the churches of God revert to their ancient purity and recover their primitive order; liberty, and beauty.

Of this congregation that began in Scrooby and grew in the relative security of Leyden, Holland, fifty or so would risk the dangerous journey to America in 1620.

Even as stepping stones unto others

Concerning the hope that filled them, Bradford wrote:

Lastly (and which was not least), a great hope and inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way thereunto, for the propagating and advancing the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping-stones unto others for the performing of so great a work.



The
**BLACK
BOX**
speaks again

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. (1 Peter 1:10-11)