

Analysis of an Excerpt from the Sermon "A Model of Christian Charity" by John Winthrop

Introduction

<p>What was life like in England for the Puritans?</p> <p>What phrase from the Bible does the sermon focus on?</p> <p>When and where was this sermon preached?</p>	<p>The Puritans led stable, prosperous lives in England to come to America. They sought to establish a colony that would serve as a model to the world of the correct way to worship and govern. This sermon is considered an expression of these goals. "A City upon a Hill" is a phrase from the parable of Salt and Light in Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. Puritan belief held that all Christians should read the Bible daily, so this sermon, spoken in their language unlike the Catholic masses that were spoken in Latin, referred to a specific text in the Bible that all would have been familiar with. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus is said to have told his listeners, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." This sermon "A Model of Christian Charity" was preached on March 21 by Puritan John Winthrop at Holyrood Church in Southampton just before his first group of Massachusetts Bay colonists boarded the ship <i>The Arbella</i> to come with the first group of 11 ships to start a colony in Massachusetts.</p>	<p>Why did Puritans come to America?</p> <p>Why would Puritans listening to the sermon have known this phrase?</p> <p>Who heard this sermon preached?</p>
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Excerpt

<p>What does the sermon say will happen to the Puritans if they do not fulfill their pledge to build a worthy Christian colony in America?</p> <p>What does the sermon say others will think if they build this worthy Christian colony in America?</p> <p>What does the sermon say will happen if they fulfill their promise to build a model Christian colony?</p>	<p>. . . We are entered into covenant with Him for this work. We have taken out a commission. . . . Now if the Lord shall please to hear us, and bring us in peace to the place we desire, then hath He ratified this covenant and sealed our commission, and will expect a strict performance of [what we have pledge to perform] . . . if we shall neglect the observation of [what we have pledged] . . . , seeking great things for ourselves and our posterity, the Lord will surely break out in wrath against us, and be revenged of such a people, and make us know the price of the breach of such a covenant.</p> <p>Now the only way to avoid this shipwreck, and to provide for our posterity, is to . . . do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God. For this end, we must be knit together, in this work, as one man. We must entertain each other in brotherly affection. We must be willing to abridge ourselves of our superfluities, for the supply of others' necessities. We must uphold a familiar commerce together in all meekness, gentleness, patience and liberality. We must delight in each other; make others' conditions our own; rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, as members of the same body.</p> <p>So shall we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. The Lord will be our God, and delight to dwell among us, as His own people, and will command a blessing upon us in all our ways, so that we shall see much more of His wisdom, power, goodness and truth, than formerly we have been acquainted with He shall make us a praise and glory that men [of other colonies] shall say "may the Lord make it like that of New England." For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us.</p> <p>So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world. We shall open the mouths of enemies to speak evil of the ways of God We shall shame many of God's worthy servants, and cause their prayers to be turned into curses upon us till we be consumed out of the good land whither we are going.</p> <p>And to end this sermon with that exhortation of Moses, "Beloved, there is now set before us life and death, good and evil," in that we are commanded this day to love the Lord our God, and to love one another, to walk in his ways and to keep his Commandments and his ordinance and his laws, and the articles of our Covenant with Him, that we may live and be multiplied, and that the Lord our God may bless us in the land whither we go to possess it. But if our hearts shall turn away, so that we will not obey, but shall be seduced, and worship pleasure and profit, we shall surely perish out of the good land whither we pass over this vast sea to possess it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Therefore let us choose life, that we and children may live, by obeying His voice and cleaving to Him, for He is our life and our prosperity.</p>	<p>What does the sermon say is their only way for Puritans to become prosperous in the America?</p> <p>What does the sermon say will happen if they fail to build the worthy Christian colony they have set out to build?</p> <p>What does the sermon say could cause the colony to perish?</p>
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Create a 3-2-1 to summarize this famous document.

3 Words _____

2 Phrases _____

1 Complete Thought _____

Organize these creatively on a sheet of paper to display.