

The Pilgrim's Progress
Chapter 14– “The Pilgrims Deal with Giant Despair”
October 8, 2014

“Who could have thought that this path should have led us out of the way?” – Christian

“John Bunyan’s own experience enters deeply into these terrible pages. In composing these terrible pages, Bunyan writes straight and bold out of his own heart and conscience. The black and bitter essence of a whole black and bitter volume is crushed into these four or five bitter pages. Last week I went over *Grace Abounding* again, and marked the passages in which its author describes his own experiences of doubt, diffidence, and despair, till I gave over counting the passages, they are so many. I had intended to illustrate the passage before us to-night out of the kindred materials that I knew were so abundant in Bunyan’s terrible autobiography, but I had to give up that idea. It would have taken two or three lectures to itself to tell all that Bunyan suffered all his life long from an easily-wounded spirit. The whole book is just Giant Despair and his dungeon, with a gleam here and there of that sunshiny weather that threw the giant into one of his fits, in which he always lost for the time the use of his limbs. Return often, my brethren, to that masterpiece, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*. I have read it a hundred times, but last week it was as fresh and powerful and consoling as ever to my sin-wounded spirit.” – Alexander Whyte

- I. Christian and Hopeful leaving the narrow way
 - A. How they ended up in Doubting Castle
 - a.i.1. Christian forgot that the narrow way was _____.
 - a.i.2. The older Christian led Hopeful
 - a.i.3. The way was _____ and _____.
 - a.i.4. They saw another man walking to the Celestial City.
 - B. VainConfidence -
 - C. Doubting Castle and Giant Despair represent those seasons of _____ bordering on _____ into which God’s people sometimes fall.
 - D. Doubt: To lack _____.
 - E. Despair: To lose all _____.
 - F. There are various ways into which people may be brought to Doubting Castle and under the power of Giant Despair
 1. Conviction of sin _____ by a sense of God’s _____ in _____
 2. Unbelief
 3. Self-indulgence
 4. By falling into some gross sin
 5. Lack of _____ and _____
 6. Gloom and despondency of mind
 7. Dwelling upon the _____, to the neglect of the _____, of God
 8. Some small compliance with _____ or some relinquishment of _____

II. Christian and Hopeful in Doubting Castle

- A. Diffidence: Giant Despair's wife. The name means distrust and represents distrust of:
- a.i.1. The _____ of God.
 - a.i.2. The _____ of God.
 - a.i.3. The _____ appointed by God.
- B. Hopeful's argument against the temptation offered by Giant Despair
- 1. Thou shalt not murder.
 - 2. All the law is not in the hand of Giant Despair.
 - 3. Others have escaped.
 - 4. God may cause Giant Despair to die.
 - 5. He may forget to lock us in.
 - 6. He may, in a short time, have another of his fits before us, and may lose the use of his limbs.
 - 7. The time may come that may give us a happy release.
 - 8. Apollyon could not crush thee.
 - 9. All that thou didst hear, or see, or feel, in the Valley of the Shadow of Death could not crush thee.
 - 10. Remember how thou playedst the man at Vanity Fair, and wast neither afraid of the chain nor cage, nor yet of bloody death.
- C. The Key called Promise
- a.i.1. Christian had carried the key since he entered the Wicket Gate.
 - a.i.2. It represents promises from God's word.
 - a.i.3. Clarke's Precious Promises

III. What did Christian and Hopeful learn? (Lecture on Pilgrim's Progress by Rodgers and McElwee)

- A. The _____ of departing out of the way. (It becomes dark, difficult and dangerous)
- B. It is better to follow the path of _____, even though it is rough and hard, and enjoy the light of the Father's countenance, than to walk in the ways of _____, though they appear ever so pleasant.
- C. Sometimes returning believers take refuge in _____ instead of Christ and only find temporary ease.
- D. That they should show _____ to God for our great deliverance by putting up an inscription that others may be kept from the power of evil.

IV. Next Week: DVD #11 "The Delectable Mountains" and Chapter 15 "The Pilgrims Reach the Delightful Mountains"

CLARKE'S PRECIOUS PROMISES

HOPE

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD" (Psalm 31:24).

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God" (Psalm 42:11).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ... Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end... that your faith and hope might be in God" (1Peter 1:3, 13, 21).

"The hope which is laid up for you in heaven... The hope of the Gospel... The hope of glory" (Colossians 1:5, 23, 27).

TO TRUSTING AND PATIENTLY WAITING ON GOD

"Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (Psalm 2:12).

"They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever" (Psalm 125:1).

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (Psalm 27:14).

"Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD" (Psalm 31:19, 24).

"I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide" (Psalm 26:1).

"The LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8; 84:12).

"In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me" (Psalm 56:4).

"Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:9).

"He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies" (Psalm 112:7, 8)

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. The LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him" (Psalms 37:3, 9, 40).
"They shall not be ashamed that wait for me" (Isaiah 49:23).

"He that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat" (Proverbs 28:25).

"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God" (Psalm 146:5).

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:3, 4).

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit" (Jeremiah 17:7, 8).

"We are saved by hope" (Romans 8:24).

"He knoweth them that trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).

"Whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25).

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1Peter 5:7).

"I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7).

"The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate" (Psalm 34:22).

"The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD" (Lamentations 3:25, 26).

