

The Pilgrim's Progress

From the City of Destruction to the Slough of Despond

June 4, 2014

I. Reading from The City of Destruction to the Slough of Despond

A. Observations

1. Obstinate demonstrates the _____ of those who are opposed to the Gospel.
2. Pliable reveals a _____ to believe anything for a time.

B. Questions

1. How are Obstinate and Pliable different from each other?
2. In what ways are they alike?

II. The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:18-23) and Pliable, Obstinate and Christian.

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower:

parable: A story or saying that illustrates a _____ using comparison, hyperbole, or simile.

The seed is the _____.

The sower is the _____ of the _____.

The soil is the _____ of _____.

¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

"None of these were _____, _____ persons, who make no conscience of neglecting to hear the word preached; they are all _____. Oh how strait is the way, how narrow is the gate, that leadeth to everlasting life! How few there be that find it!" - Matthew Poole

²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

"It is possible we may be a great deal better than some others, and yet not be so good as we should be; may go beyond our neighbors, and yet come short of heaven." - Matthew Henry

How far did the rocky ground hearers (e.g. Pliable) go?

How did they fall away, so that no fruit was brought to perfection?

²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

"Prosperity destroys the word in the heart, as much as persecution does; and more dangerously, because more silently: the stones spoiled the root, the thorns spoil the fruit." - Matthew Henry

²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

What is the good ground?

(Matthew Poole) To make a good Christian all these things must concur:

1. A _____ of the word.
2. An _____ or _____ the word.
3. A _____ of the word
4. A bringing forth of _____, but not all alike fruitful
5. A bringing forth fruit with _____.

"Now that which distinguished this good ground from the rest, was, in one word, fruitfulness. By *this* true Christians are distinguished from hypocrites, that they *bring forth the fruits of righteousness; so shall ye be my disciples*, Jn. 15:8. He does not say that this good ground has no stones in it, or no thorns; but there were none that prevailed to hinder its fruitfulness. Saints, in this world, are not

perfectly free from the remains of sin; but happily freed from the reign of it." –
M. Henry

- III. Why did the Son of God come? (1John 3:8)

- IV. According to the Parable of the Sower, how Satan takes the word away?

- V. Application – How can we fight Satan's methods
 - A. _____ the soil of your heart
 - B. _____ _____ to the word of God
 - C. _____ the word of God as you hear

- VI. Next week: From the Slough of Despond to the Wicket Gate