

The Pilgrim's Progress
From the Slough of Despond to the Wicket Gate
June 11, 2014

- I. The Slough of Despond
 - A. Context
 - 1. From the City of Destruction to the Slough of Despond
 - 2. Obstinate, Pliable and Christian
 - B. We can see "sloughs" full of sinking men

- II. Help
 - A. "Help" in Scripture
 - B. We should imitate Help
 - 1. Get the person to state his own case
 - 2. Enter into the case
 - 3. Comfort the person with the promises of God
 - 4. Try to instruct those who may need your help more fully in the plan of salvation
 - 5. Tell the troubled one of your own experience
 - C. Description of Help
 - 1. A tender _____.
 - 2. Very quick _____ and _____.
 - 3. Swift of _____.
 - 4. A loving _____.
 - 5. Firm _____.
 - 6. Knows the _____ well.
 - 7. A strong _____.
 - 8. A bending _____.
 - D. Why we should help others
 - 1. Souls need help
 - 2. We were helped when in the same condition

3. Christ deserves it
 4. The work in itself is blessed
 5. We are called to the work
 6. Every hour we live we are getting nearer to Heaven, and sinners nearer to Hell
- E. "and Bartholomew" (Mt 10:3. Mk 3:18, Luke 6:14, Acts 1:13)

III. Goodwill

- A. The Wicket Gate and its surroundings
 1. The Slough of Despond
 2. The City of Destruction, the town of Carnal Policy and the village of Morality
 3. People who come to the gate
 4. The narrow and straight way to the Celestial City
- B. Lessons from the Wicket Gate
 1. The Wicket Gate was shut
 - a. The only thing visible was the writing over the gate telling pilgrims to knock.
 - b. What does "knock" mean?
 - c. How many times did Christian "knock?"
 2. "Notwithstanding"

"My original an inward pollution was my plague and my affliction; that I say, at a dreadful rate was always putting itself forth within me; that I had the guilt of amazement; by reason of that I was more loathsome in my own eyes than a toad; and I thought I was so in God's eyes also. Sin and corruption would bubble up out of my heart as naturally as water bubbles up out of a fountain. I thought now that everyone had a better heart than I had. I could have changed hearts with anybody. I thought none but the devil himself could equalize me for inward wickedness and pollution of mind. I fell, therefore, at the sight of my own vileness, deeply into despair, for I concluded that this condition in which I was in could not

stand with a life of grace. Sure, thought I, I am forsaken of God; sure I am given up to the Devil, and to a reprobate mind.” - John Bunyan in *Grace Abounding*

IV. Arrows of Beelzebub (or the lies of Satan)

- A. _____ of our sins.
- B. It is too late for you to be _____.
- C. You have _____ the Holy Spirit.
- D. The Doctrine of _____.
- E. You have committed the _____ sin.
- F. It would be _____ to trust Christ.