

The Pilgrim's Progress: A Study

Week 3: Section 2 (Pastor's Notes)

The Slough of Despond, Mr. Worldly Wiseman, Morality, The Wicket Gate

Cover the Narrative

Let's take time to discuss the basic story of pages 11-24, focusing on these key questions:

1. What unexpected hardship befalls Christian and Pliable as our section begins?
2. Describe the difference in reaction between Christian and Pliable (attitude and action) to this development.
3. Who arrives by the slough to offer aid? Why is he surprised that Christian is stuck?
4. Help explains why the Slough exists. What does he say?
5. What had the King done to address the Slough.
6. Having resumed his pilgrimage, who does Christian next encounter?
7. What is the advice of Mr. Worldly Wiseman upon seeing Christian's difficulties?
8. How does Mr. Wiseman seek to convince Christian? P.15
9. Where is the town of Morality located? What does Wiseman tell him he will find?
10. What does Christian find as he comes to the mount near Morality?
11. Who providentially came to Christian's aid? What did they discuss?
12. What were the three things in Wiseman's advice that Christian should abhor? P.19
13. At the end of their conversation, what encouragement and warning did Evangelist give? P.21
14. What is written above the Wicket Gate? Who was its attendant?
15. How does Christian describe himself?
16. Christian was pulled through the gate. What danger had he not noticed? Why was it there?
17. What direction for the pilgrimage is Christian offered at the Wicket Gate?

We will read 21-24 to hear the discussion between Good-Will and Christian.

Go over the Worksheets

Explain the problem over the book/worksheet combo. Work through the answers.

Theological Discussion

- Theological significance of the characters- Pliable (again), Help, Mr. Worldly Wiseman, Mr. Legality, Mr. Civility, Evangelist (again), and Good-Will?
- Theological significance of the Locations: Slough of Despond, Mount Sinai, Town of Morality, Beelzebub's castle, the Wicket Gate.
- Why is the Town of Morality such a threat to the pilgrimage?
- Why does this author associate those three names- Morality, Legality, Civility?
- This section in our study guide is titled Seeking the Savior. Why? Has Christian eternal life at the end of today's section? What does Bunyan say? Why has this very subject caused some theological issues? How should we understand it?

Assignment for next week:

For next Wednesday night, please read pages 25-42 in the supplied book.

- **The House of the Interpreter** (page 25)
- **Christian at the Cross** (Page 34)
- **Simple, Sloth and Presumption** (page 35)
- **Formalist and Hypocrisy** (page 36)
- and **The Hill of Difficulty** (Page 38)

If you can, fill out your worksheets, and look up the Biblical references in your Bible.

-I look forward to seeing you again, then!