

THE COUNSELING RESOURCES OF THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

A. Introduction.

1. The four major misunderstandings of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.
 - a. It is primarily a book for children.
 - b. It is a puritan literary fossil suitable for modern scholastic investigation.
 - c. It is a simple evangelistic tract.
 - d. It is a non-doctrinal moral novel that stimulates abstract piety.
2. The four major doctrinal emphases of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.
 - a. The gospel of the substitutionary righteousness of Jesus Christ.
 - b. The progressive sanctification of the saved sinner traversing a wilderness world.
 - c. The faithful local church, under godly leadership, as the pilgrim's earthly refuge.
 - d. The stimulant to perseverance of repeated vistas of the Celestial City.

B. Counseling the *dim-sighted seeker* (Evangelist at the City of Destruction).

1. The interest of Evangelist in pointing out the Wicket-gate.
2. The limited vista of "yon shining light" (II Pet. 1:19).

C. Counseling the *earnest seeker* (the Slough of Despond).

1. Christian, so burdened he cannot discern God's promises. Assailed by Beelzebub.
2. Faithful, helped by promises, avoids drowning in guilt. Assailed by Madam Wanton.
3. Christiana, helped by promises, avoids drowning in guilt. Assailed by Devil Dog.

D. Counseling the *new pilgrim* (the House of Interpreter).

1. The priority of the faithful pastor.
2. The priority of distinguishing between law and grace (beware of Galatianism).
3. The needed balance of “things pleasant, dreadful, things to make me stable.”

E. Counseling the *false pilgrim*.

1. The religious hypocrite (Talkative).
 - a. Discerning Talkatives.
 - b. Exposing Talkatives.
2. The religious moralist (Ignorance).
 - a. Discerning where his trust is rooted.
 - b. Distinguishing the false and true gospel.

F. Counseling the *weak pilgrim* (Little-faith).

1. The scenario.
2. Distinguishing Little-faith from Turn-away.
3. Distinguishing Little-faith from Esau.
4. Discouraging false pilgrim confidence.

G. Counseling the *carnal pilgrim* (Faithful).

1. The encounter with Madam Wanton.
 - a. Counsel from the Word.
 - b. Counsel from a companion.
2. The encounter with Adam the First.
 - a. The condemnation of Moses.
 - b. The consolation of Christ.

H. Counseling the *worldly pilgrim* (By-ends).

1. Know his acquaintances.
2. Know his reasonings.
3. Know his appropriate rebuke.

I. Counseling the *depressed pilgrim* (Doubting Castle and Giant Despair).

1. The *circumstances* of depression – detour from the narrow way.
2. The *symptoms* of depression – neglect of prayer and the Word.
3. The *consequences* of depression – darkness that suggests suicide.
4. The *antidote* for depression – light on the Lord's Day.

J. Counseling the *weary pilgrim*

1. Weariness at the Hill Difficulty (caution against indulgence).
2. Weariness at By-Path Meadow (caution against false expectations).
3. Weariness at the Delectable Mountains (caution and console).
4. Weariness at Beulah Land (console with vistas of coming glory).