

“The Pilgrims Progress”
A Book & A Burden
(Pages 1-2)

* Tonight - We Will Be Looking At:

- The First 2 Pages:
 - Of The Pilgrims Progress:
 - Which Tells Us Of A Man:
 - Who Starts To Flee From:
 - His City - Which "Will Be Burned With Fire From Heaven!"
- Play Video.

Introduction:

1. John Bunyan Wrote:

- The Pilgrims Progress:
 - As If It Was A Dream!
 - “In The Similitude Of A Dream” - He Writes!
- And - Just Like Many:
 - Of Our Own Dreams:
 - They Are Often Related To:
 - Our Own Experiences, Relationships:
 - And Memories Of The Same!
- And - So It Was For Bunyan:
 - Who - Saw This Old World:
 - As It Now Really Is!
 - A “Wilderness” He Calls It!
 - When He Begins His Story:
 - He Writes - “As I Walked Through The Wilderness Of This World!”

2. But - Even Though:

- This Is What The World Is *Really* Like:
 - One Of The Problems We Find About The World Is:

1. *The Blindness Of This Old World!*

- Of Course - This Fallen World:
 - Including All Who Remain In Their Sin:
 - Have No Real Understanding Of:
- Its Depiction:
 - As A Wilderness - Or - A **Wild** Place - Which Is:
 - The Root For The Word Wilderness!
 - Because Of Sin:
 - The World Is A Place:
 - Of Aimlessness:
 - And Abandonment:
 - Anxiety - And:
 - Even Abuse!
 - It Reminds Us Of The “Wilderness” In Which:
 - The Children Of Israel Wandered:
 - For 40 Long Years:
 - And Where Noone Over The Age Of Twenty When They *Entered* The Wilderness, *Survived* The Wilderness - Except For 2:
 - Joshua & Caleb!
 - But - The World Is Blind:
 - To Its True Nature! It Is Also Blind To:
- Its Danger!
 - When The Pilgrim Of Our Story:
 - Looked Into His Book:
 - He Said - “I Am Certainly Informed That This Our City Will Be Burned With Fire From Heaven!”

- And The Danger Of This World:
 - Is Still Looming Over It!
 - As We Are Told In 2 Peter 3:10 - “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up!”
- And Yet - This Old World:
 - Continues On Its Merry Way:
 - As If Nothing Will Ever Happen To It!
 - Its Blind! It’s Also Blind To:
- Its Dwellers!
 - Those Who Live Here!
 - When The Author Describes The Pilgrim:
 - *He* Sees Him The Way:
 - *God* Sees Him!
 - The Man:
 - Was “Clothed In Rags!”
 - But - To The World - What Did Those Rags Look Like?
 - They Probably Looked Like The Finest Clothes Money Could Buy!
 - Because - According To:
 - Isaiah 64:6 - We Are Told That To God:
 - “All Our Righteousness Are As Filthy Rags!”
 - What The World Might Think Is:
 - Respectable - God Considers:
 - Reprehensible!
 - The Man Also Had:
 - “A Great Burden On His Back!”
 - Of Course - This Burden:
 - Is The Burden Of His Sin!
 - As King David Described His Burden:
 - In Psalm 38:4 - “For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me!”
 - **IE:** When John Bunyan Wrote This - He Might Have Thought About His 60 Pound Portable Anvil That He Carried Around On His Shoulder - When He Worked As A Tinker!
 - But To Bunyan - And To The Lord:
 - The Burden Of Sin Is Far Heavier Than Anything Else In This World!
 - But Did Anyone Else:
 - See That Burden?
 - It Doesn’t Seem Like It!
 - Not Even His Wife And Children!
 - He Had To ***Tell*** Them:
 - About His Burden & His Concern:
 - For Himself & For Them!
 - But - The Man Also Had:
 - “A Book In His Hand!”
 - *And That Book Made All The Difference!*
 - Because That Book:
 - Was The Word Of God!
- And - It Was *That* Book:
 - That Revealed To *That* Man:
 - His Burden!
 - And This Is What God Designed His Word To Do!
 - Romans 7:9 - “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died!”
 - And Yet - The World:
 - Remained & Still Remains:
 - Blind And Ignorant:
 - Of Its True Condition!
 - This World - Like That Man:

- Needs God To Open Its Eyes - And:
 - Shine The Light Of Truth:
 - On Our Hearts!
- But - When God Does That:
 - To This Man In Our Story:
 - We Then See:

2. ***The Behavior Of This Old World!***

- It Is Clear That God Was Starting To:
 - Open The Eyes & Heart:
 - Of The Man In Our Story!
 - But The Eyes & Heart:
 - Of The World Remained Closed:
 - To His Plight!
 - Even When He Went Home:
 - And “Broke His Mind To His Wife And His Children!”
 - Those Who Were Very Near & Dear To His Heart:
 - How Did They Respond?
 - Not With Understanding, But - First:
- They Disbelieved Him!
 - “At This These Close Relatives Of His Were Greatly Amazed! It Was Not That They Believed To Be True What He Said To Them, But Rather They Thought That Some Frenzy Distemper Had Got Into His Head!”
 - They Thought He Was Crazy!
 - Just Like The World Still Thinks:
 - Of Those Who Pursue After God And Spiritual Things!
 - But - When Our Pilgrim:
 - Persisted In His Spiritual Quest:
 - Things Got Worse For Him:
 - At The Hands Of His Own Family! Then:
- They Derided Him!
 - “Sometimes They Would Deride, Sometimes They Would Chide, And At Other Times They Would Quite Neglect Him!”
 - What A Sad And Heartless Response:
 - To Someone Whose Soul Is Sick:
 - With Sin And Guilt!
 - And - We Need To Remember That:
 - There Is No True Help:
 - From The World:
 - For A Sick Soul!
 - Only The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Says To You - If You Feel The Heavy Burden Of Your Sin:
 - Matthew 11:28 - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!”
 - But Even More - His Own Family:
- They Dissuaded Him!
 - When He Started To “Flee From The Wrath To Come!”
 - What Did They Do?
 - They “Began To Cry Out After Him So That He Might Return!”
- And So - Even Those Closed To Him:
 - Cared Nothing For His Soul!
 - But - Praise God That There Still Is:

3. ***The Blessing To This Old World!***

- Without God’s Intervention - Noone In This World:
 - Would Have Any Hope Nor Any Help!
 - But - God Did & Does Intervene! How? With:
- A Word From Heaven!

- This Is The Book That Was In The Pilgrim's Hand!
 - It Is Only The Word Of God:
 - That Can Reveal The Truth:
 - *About Sin:*
 - *To Sinners Like Us!*
 - It Was This Book:
 - That Revealed To Our Pilgrim:
 - That It Is "Appointed Unto Men Once To Die, But After This The Judgment!" (Hebrews 9:27)
 - And - It Was This Book:
 - That Brought True Conviction:
 - Of Sin To Our Pilgrim's Heart!
 - So That He Told Evangelist - "I Fear That This Burden That Is Upon My Back Will Sink Me Lower Than The Grave!"
 - And The "Thoughts Of These Things" Made Him Cry!
 - And This Is The First Work:
 - Of God's Word – To Convict Us:
 - Of Our Sin!
 - Bunyan Would Go On To Write In Another Book:
 - "He Therefore, And He Only, Knows What Saved Means, That Knows What Hell And Death, And Damnation Means!" / "What Shall I Do To Be Saved?' Is The Language Of The Trembling Sinner! 'Lord, Save Me' Is The Language Of The Sinking Sinner!"
 - But - When This Happens - Listen To What David Says:
 - Psalm 51:17 - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise!"
 - Psalm 34:18 - "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit!"
 - The Ability To Cry Over Your Sin - And:
 - To Cry Out To The Lord:
 - Comes Only Through The Word & The Spirit Of God!
 - And Those Tears Of Conviction:
 - Will Become Tears Of:
 - Of Conversion!
 - As Paul Wrote In:
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10 - "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death!"
 - But God Also Intervenes With:
- A Witness On Earth!
 - As Our Pilgrim Was Struggling With His Burden:
 - Who Comes On The Scene?
 - A Man Named Evangelist!
 - Bunyan Probably Was Thinking Of His Own Pastor, John Gifford, Who Patiently Led Him To the Lord!
 - But - An Evangelist Can Be Anyone:
 - Who Cares For Lost Souls - And:
 - Is A Bearer / Sharer Of The Good News Of The Gospel!
 - Pastor / Relative / Friend / Neighbor!
 - And This Too Is One Of God's Greatest Blessings:
 - To This Old World!
 - Isaiah 52:7 - Quoted By Paul In Romans 10:15 - "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation!"
 - And - I Love How This Evangelist Is Portrayed!
 - May We All Be / Become This Kind:
 - Of Soul-Winner & Fisher Of Men! See:
 - The Coming Of Evangelist!
 - Bunyan Wrote That When The Man:
 - "Could Not Tell Which Way To Go!"

- Then He - "Saw A Man Named Evangelist *Coming* To Him!"
- Not Waiting:
 - But Coming!
 - Even, Going!
- We Also See:
- The Compassion Of Evangelist!
 - He Tenderly Asked 3 Probing Questions:
 - That Dealt With Pilgrims:
 - Tears / Fears / Gears!
 - First - "For What Reason Are You Crying!"
 - To Reach Those With Sorrow!
 - Second - "Why Are You Not Willing To Die Since This Life Is Accompanied With So Many Evils?"
 - To Reach Those In Struggles!
 - Third - "If This Is Your Condition, Then Why Are You Standing Still?"
 - To Reach Those Who Are Seeking! Not Necessarily God - But Purpose!
 - This Is The Compassion:
 - That We Need - And The Questions:
 - That We Can Ask People:
 - About Their Tears, Fears, Gears In Life!
 - We Then See:
- The Communication Of Evangelist!
 - He Gave Him "A Parchment Roll" - On Which:
 - Were The Words Of John The Baptist:
 - From Luke 3:7 - "Fly From The Wrath To Come!"
 - What Evangelist Did:
 - Was Add A Little Water:
 - To The Seeds Of The Word:
 - That The Pilgrim Already Had Planted In His Heart!
 - It Wasn't A New Message:
 - But This Time - As Bunyan Makes Note Of In The Margins Of His Story:
 - It Came With The "Conviction of The Necessity Of Flying!"
 - Clearly, God Was At Work In & Through His Word!
- And Then - Evangelist:
 - Pointed Out The Way:
 - For The Pilgrim!
 - First - To The:
 - Door - "Wicket / Narrow Gate!"
 - Which Is Jesus!
 - But - The Pilgrim Couldn't See Him Very Clearly! Then:
 - Second - To The:
 - Dawn - The "Shining Light!"
 - Which Is The Word:
 - Which Is "A Lamp Unto My Feet, And A Light Unto My Path!"
 - And - It Was This Light:
 - That Would Lead Pilgrim:
 - To The Lord!
 - "Christ And The Way To Him Cannot Be Found Without The Word!" (Bunyan)
 - Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!"

Conclusion:

1. And What Did The Pilgrim Do?
 - By God's Grace - He "Began To Run!"
 - He Ran Away - From This Old World:
 - And He Started Running Toward - The Light Of The World!
2. Let Us Remember:
 - What This Old World Is Like:

- And Keep On Running - Like The Pilgrim:
- To The One And Only Hope:
- That We Find In *This* Book! Jesus!

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***