

Lesson Four **WORLDLY WISEMAN**

As we continue our study through the book, *Pilgrim's Progress*, we have come to the portion of the book that deals with Christian's encounter with Mr. Worldly Wiseman. Several characters have come before us already. We have seen our hero, who is the Pilgrim, and we have seen two individuals who would be pilgrims, but prove to be false. One of them was named Obstinate, which stood for stubborn, one who wanted nothing to do with the gospel and made no bones about it. The other individual was a man named Pliable. When he heard of some of the pleasures of heaven, Pliable was persuaded that perhaps it would be a good thing to leave the City of Destruction and try to go to heaven. Then when he fell into the Slough of Despond (the subject of last week's lesson) he decided that the Christian life was not for him. So he got himself out of the Slough and went back to the City of Destruction.

Tonight we are going to deal with Christian's encounter with Mr. Worldly Wiseman. After Christian gets out of the Slough, the man named Help pointed out that there were steps on which he could have gone through this Slough without falling in. Then we progressed to this point. This evening's study will be concentrating upon the second fatal error that can keep a person from truly being saved or converted. We told you last week that from the time individuals become interested in their present condition and realize that they are under the wrath of God, until they actually reach true conversion at the Wicket Gate, there are two fatal errors in which they can fall into. One of them is the Slough of Despond. This is the error that some fall into when they believe that sin is so powerful and strong, there is no hope of being forgiven or delivered out of its power. We do not encounter many individuals like this today. Occasionally you will encounter a person who has fallen into the Slough of Despondency, but there is a reason for this. Years ago many people fell into this error, but it was because sin was preached about. That is, the hideous nature of sin was exposed, and people became concerned about it. Nowadays, in our modern gospel we have what is known as "easy believism" which looks upon sin very lightly. Therefore, today you don't find too many people becoming overly alarmed about their sinful condition to the point that they become despairing of ever being forgiven. However, there is another error, which we are going to discuss tonight, which is as fatal as the Slough of Despond, and actually destroys more pilgrims than the Slough of Despond, and that is the encounter with Mr. Worldly Wiseman. Remember that the Slough of Despond and Mr.

Worldly Wiseman are the two errors which a person must get through before he actually reaches true conversion. One of them views sin too despairingly, and Mr. Worldly Wiseman is the other error which views sin too lightly. This error considers sin as nothing any more, so that you don't have to deal with it. If you have your books, open them to that portion in which we deal with Christian and Mr. Worldly Wiseman. ***Now as Christian was walking solitarily by himself,*** This is a phrase that is filled with meaning. What does it mean when he walks solitarily by himself? That is a play on words that Bunyan uses, and it means that he is now overcome with loneliness. Why is that? Remember that he is not yet converted. He does not understand what it means to be truly converted and have his faith placed in Jesus Christ and His work. Up to this point, he has no Christian company apart from the local pastor, the Evangelist. Pliable, the would-be pilgrim, has turned around and gone back to the City of Destruction, so this would-be Christian is now walking alone all by himself, and he is overcome with loneliness. This is a very opportune time for Mr. Worldly Wiseman to come on the scene to tempt Christian. We read on.

Now as Christian was walking solitarily by himself, he espied one afar off, come crossing over the field to meet him; and their hap was to meet just as they were crossing the way of each other. The gentleman's name that met him was Mr. Worldly Wiseman: he dwelt in the town of Carnal Policy, a very great town, and also hard-by (or close by) from whence Christian came.

Remember Christian came from the City of Destruction, but this man didn't live in the City of Destruction. He lived in another town close by named Carnal Policy.

This man then, meeting with Christian, and having some inkling of him, (for Christian's setting forth from the City of Destruction was much noised abroad, not only in the town where he dwelt, but also it began to be the town-talk in some other places,).

That is, some other people had heard about this person seeking the Lord, and so the news was getting out in other localities.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman, therefore, having some guess of him, by beholding his laborious going, by observing his signs and groans and the like, began thus to enter into some talk with Christian.

Here we have Christian's encounter with Mr. Worldly Wiseman. Who is Mr. Worldly Wiseman, and what does he stand for? Mr. Worldly Wiseman represents a liberal preacher.

That is, he is an unconverted minister going under the ranks of a Christian minister, and his message is dominated by fleshly or human wisdom. He does not use the wisdom which is from above. He does not discern things spiritually because he is not regenerate and is not a Christian himself, but yet he carries a very great portion of influence in the community in which he lives. That is why this book is so up-to-date. These discussions or encounters are very applicable to today's time. So, in his day, Bunyan would liken this individual as a pastor, or perhaps the bishop in the established church. He was a stranger to grace, but held a very large influence over the souls of people.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman, lived in the town of Carnal Policy. The word "carnal" means "fleshly." It is a word that we no longer use today. It is used in the *King James Version* of the Bible, but it is not found in the *Revised Standard Version* and some of the newer translations. It is what we use today for the term, flesh. It merely means that this individual is a minister of social standing in the community, and yet he has no spirituality as far as understanding the things of God. He is dependent entirely upon fleshly or human reasoning in order to explain God and man's approach to God.

As Worldly Wiseman is walking across the field, he sees Christian. That is, he observes the man who is trying to learn about God and what it means to be truly converted. So as they meet together, they enter into a conversation. Before we get into the conversation, I would like to reveal some things for us to look for in the character of Mr. Worldly Wiseman, or the liberal minister who is unconverted. We need to learn some things

WORLDLY WISEMAN SAYS, "You can have your religion as long as it doesn't cause you to lose the enjoyment or the pleasures of this life, and as long as it doesn't interfere with secular advantage."

about him. Remember that he stands for a fatal error which views sin too lightly. He just passes by sin. He doesn't have any use for the cross or for the gospel. He quickly tries to get Christian to get off of the way and to go over to the Town of Morality. We will find out what that is in just a moment.

This man views that all of those who are truly seeking to have the burden of sin removed from them, are deluded or they are "touched" in their minds. That is, they are not really all there. So he tries to help them with that. This man, Mr. Worldly Wiseman, is much for religion as long as you don't get

serious about it. I hope you understand what I mean by that. He makes much of religion as long as you don't take religion seriously. You can be very social and upstanding, but don't get fanatical about religion because that only leads to despondency, mental unease, and puts pressures on the mind. The philosophy of Worldly Wiseman is "Don't get fanatical about your religion." He views that a proper approach to religion, even the Christian religion, is this. You can have your religion as long as it doesn't cause you to lose the enjoyment or the pleasures of this life, and as long as it doesn't interfere with secular advantage. That is, you can have your religion but don't start practicing the principles of religion so that it makes you an honest businessman. That is, you can go right along and be an outstanding person, but if it comes down to where it hinders your business, then don't get fanatical about it. That is his approach. You can have religion, but just don't become fanatical about it. Also, he is very much opposed to all degrees and kinds of religion which interfere with the individual's secular or worldly interests or their jobs. He would abhor or hate and despise any teaching which would cause a person to lose his peace of mind. He would also want nothing to do with any religion which would interfere with the individual's outward enjoyments and pursuits of earthly pleasures. This is how he judges all religion. Religion is good in its place, but just don't let it interfere with your life. That is his philosophy, and we will see this as he counsels Christian and tries to persuade him with some degree of success that he is in the wrong church. Now remember Christian has been counseled by a local pastor, a conservative minister, but now Mr. Worldly Wiseman is the liberal minister who is going to give Christian advice against the counsel of the conservative minister. He said, "don't waste your time going there."

Now let's examine this discussion. This is vital, because this dialogue between Christian and World Wiseman deals with the root issue as to what is the true gospel, or what is the pure gospel of Jesus Christ. Now Worldly Wiseman says: "**How now, (hello there) good fellow, whither away after this burdened manner?**" In other words, "Why are you so burdened? Why are you so stooped so low? What is all this groaning and sighing that is going on in your life? You look very unhappy. Christian says,

A burdened manner indeed, as ever I think poor creature had! And whereas you ask me, Whither away? I tell you sir, I am going to yonder wicket gate before me; for there, as I am informed, I shall be put into a way to be rid of my heavy burden.

So Christian says, "I am going on my way toward the wicket gate in order to get rid of this burden that is upon my back." Now remember the burden is the sense of sin and being under the wrath of God. Notice how Worldly Wiseman begins to talk with him. "**Hast thou a wife and children?**" Do you see his slyness already? He says, "Now wait a minute, you look like you are old enough to be married. Don't you have a wife and children?" Christian says,

Yes; but I am so laden with this burden, that I cannot take that pleasure in them as formerly: methinks I am as if I had none.

He said, "I am in such a condition now, I still have a wife and children, but I have reached such a burden that I can no longer enjoy them as I once was to the point that I might as well not have any." Oh, that troubles Mr. Worldly Wiseman right away. Because remember, he views any religion which interferes with earthly pursuits as being obnoxious and something to be avoided. That is why he asked the question about the wife and children. Worldly Wiseman says, "**Wilt thou hearken to me, if I give thee counsel?**" Christian says, "**If it be good, I will; for I stand in need of good counsel.**" Worldly Wiseman said,

"I would advise thee, then, that thou with all speed get thyself rid of thy burden; for thou wilt never be settled in thy mind till then: nor canst thou enjoy the benefits of the blessings which God hath bestowed upon thee, till then."

Now notice his advice. He has already asked him "Where is your family?" And after Christian's reply, Worldly Wiseman says, "Now here is the first thing you need to do is get rid of this burden that is on your back. You need to get rid of this consciousness of sin, because you will never have peace of mind until that is removed, and you won't be able to enjoy God until it is removed. In addition, you won't be able to enjoy all these earthly things which God has blessed you with as long as you are in this state of mind." Well, Christian says,

That is that which I seek for, even to be rid of this heavy burden: but get it off myself I cannot; nor is there any man in our country that can take it off my shoulders; therefore am I going this way, as I told you, that I may be rid of my burden.

So Worldly Wiseman asked him a question. He says, "**Who bid thee go this way to be rid of thy burden?**" Now remember, what is the way the Christian is on? He is on the way

to the Wicket Gate and the Cross. So Worldly Wiseman says, "Who told you to take this way to get rid of this burden?" And Christian said,

A man that appeared to me to be a very great and honourable person; his name, as I remember, is Evangelist.

That is this local conservative pastor over here, he is the one that told me this. And Worldly Wiseman says,

I beshrew him (or I wish him evil) for his counsel. There is not a more dangerous and troublesome way in the world than is that into which he hath directed thee; and that thou shalt find, if thou wilt be ruled by his counsel.

So Mr. Wiseman is beginning to criticize the Evangelist, and he is beginning to try to persuade this individual by saying that he has fallen in contact with one of the most dangerous types of persons, and that is, one of those local Bible believing preachers. He said it is only going to get him into more trouble. In fact, he says,

Thou has met with something, as I perceive, already; for I see the dirt of the Slough of Despond is upon thee:

He said, "I see that you have already fallen into despondency because you have listened to this preacher. And then he says,

But that slough is the beginning of the sorrows that do attend those that go on in that way.

He says, "if you are going to stay on the way and follow the directions of the Evangelist, you are only beginning to get into trouble. Because there is going to be a lot more trouble on that way. You ought to listen to me." He says,

Hear me, I am older than thou: thou art like to meet with, in the way which thou goest, wearisomeness, painfulness, hunger, perils, nakedness, sword, lions, dragons, darkness, and, in a word, death, and what not. These things are certainly true, having been confirmed by many testimonies. And should a man so carelessly cast away himself, by giving heed to a stranger?

He said, "I have heard many reports that individuals who set out toward the Wicket Gate, all they encounter is trouble. I am older and wiser than you. Listen, if you want to stay out of any further trouble than what you have already fallen into, you stay away from that Bible

believing preacher because he will only get you into trouble." So Christian begins to succumb to the temptation. This man is very influential. Remember he is not the gangster or the casino man, but is one of the more respected men in the community. That is usually the case, that one of the most respected individuals in a given community of established religion is an unsaved preacher who gives worldly advice. Now Christian says,

Why, sir, this burden upon my back is more terrible to me than are all these things which you have mentioned: nay, methinks I care not what I meet with in the way, if so be I can also meet with deliverance from my burden.

He says, "I don't care if there are more troubles if I can get rid of this sense of sin and have peace, I am going to go on my way. Worldly Wiseman goes on, and he asks him, "***How camest thou by thy burden at first?***" In other words, "How did this burden get on your back?" And Christian says, "***By reading this book in my hand.***" Of course, this book is the Bible. Now look at Worldly Wiseman's reply.

I thought so; and it is happened unto thee as to other weak men, who meddling with things too high for them, do suddenly fall into thy distractions; which distractions do not only unman men, as thine I perceive have done thee, but they run them upon desperate ventures, to obtain they know not what.

So, when Worldly Wiseman finds out that Christian got his burden by reading the Bible, he says, "I thought so." And he says, "Here is your problem. You are taking the Bible too seriously. And you are just like other individuals who are weak, and you are dealing with things far beyond what you are able to understand. The Bible just reduces man to nothing. That is, it takes away his pride and self-respect. And look at you, you have got dirt all over you, you've got a burden on your back, you've got a depressed mind. Nobody wants to be around you, and it is all on account of you taking the Bible too seriously." However, Worldly Wiseman does use the Bible in his ministry. He would take passages out of the Bible and speak on them regarding certain moral principles, but he is violently opposed to taking the Bible seriously. Now Christian says, "***I know what I would obtain; it is ease from my heavy burden.***" So Worldly Wiseman says, "***But why wilt thou seek for ease this way, seeing so many dangers attend it?***" "Alright, if you are so persistent in going on in order to have your burden relieved, why do you want to go on this way when there are so many dangers in that path? He says,

Especially since (hadst thou but patience to hear me) I could direct thee to the obtaining of what thou desirest, without the dangers that thou in this way wilt run thyself into. Yea, and the remedy is right here at hand. Besides, I will add, that, instead of those dangers, thou shalt meet with much safety, friendship, and content.

Now notice his reasoning. He says, "Listen, I know how you can get rid of this burden without any of the problems you will encounter if you persist in going the way that conservative minister told you to go. Besides, it is right here close, and you don't have a long journey. Instead of meeting with all of those dangers and distress of mind and so forth, you will have much safety, friendship, and you will be content with what you have. You will have a lot of friends, you will be safe and have security, and you can settle down in contentment." So Christian says, "***Sir, I pray open this secret to me.***" So Worldly Wiseman says,

Why, in yonder village (the village is named Morality) there dwells a gentlemen whose name is Legality.

Now, let's consider what this village, the City of Morality, stands for? Listen carefully. It stands for the established religion in any given community which is very social, has the respect of the community, and yet is reduced to mere morality. It has nothing to do with the gospel. It has nothing to do with a real examination of true Christian piety, but it is merely a religion of morals. It is not the morals according to God's word, but according to the standards of men. I will read to you here from a book written by Mr. Thomas Scott, and he gives some notes on this particular village. So listen carefully as we read his notes on this. (*Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan With Explanatory Notes*, Thomas Scott, Reiner Publications, p. 87).

The Village Morality is the emblem of that large company who in nations favored with revelation abstain from scandalous vices,

Now notice you are not going to have any drunkards in this village. All the drunkards are going to be in the City of Destruction. This is for those people who come out of heathendom where the vice is open and would settle down in morality. That is, they would not become true Christians, but they would settle down in a system of morals. They would scorn those who live in the City of Destruction, but they themselves are just as much under the wrath of God. Let's continue the quote.

and practice reputable duties without any true fear or love of God, or regard to his authority or glory. This, connected with a system of notions, and a stint of external worship, is substituted in the place of Christianity: but it is faulty in its principle, measure, and object; it results wholly from self-love; is restricted to the outward observance of some precepts (or standards) selected from the Scriptures;

Note that, the Village of Morality is the established church and it uses some of the Scriptures, but only those Scriptures which will go along with its principles.

and it aims principally at the acquisition of reputation, distinction, or temporal advantages, . . . it is destitute of humility, delight, impartiality, and universality in obedience; it leaves the heart in the possession of some worldly idol, and never advances a man to the rank of a spiritual worshiper or renders him meet for the peculiar pleasures of heaven. Yet this mutilated kind of religion draws multitudes off from attending either to the holy requirements of the law, or to the humbling doctrines of the Gospel.

Now I hope you haven't lost me and still don't understand what this Village or the City of Morality is. It is distinct from the City of Destruction. It is an established church or system of religion, but it is not true Christianity. So do you see how a person who sets out to go to the Wicket Gate can either fall into an error of the Slough of Despond or he can settle down in Churcharity. He can go to church every Sunday and listen to Mr. Worldly Wiseman preach, and yet he is not converted. As far as he is concerned, everything is alright, everything is settled, the burden is gone now, he has a lot of friends and a good reputation. This church is a social status in the community, that in order to have a good reputation, you should belong to that particular church. Incidentally, whatever the respectable religion is in a community, that will be where Mr. Worldly Wiseman will be.

When I pastored in St. Louis, Missouri, the respectable religion in that region was the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, if you wanted to be a nominal Christian, that is, in name only, you would unite with the Roman Catholic Church. But when you move to Southwest Missouri, the area in which we live, it is another matter entirely. Do you know what the established or the reputable religion of this area is? Yes, you do don't you. It is Baptist. So in order to be someone in a good standing in this section of the country, you need to belong to a Baptist church. Therefore, it is just as easy to go to Hell being a member of a Baptist church as it is being a member of a Catholic church, if you have just

settled down in Churchanity and have set up a system of morals to live by, but are strangers to a true working of the grace of God which leads to genuine conversion.

Now let's go on. This Village called Morality is the established religion. Now Mr. Worldly Wiseman says,

There dwells a gentlemen whose name is Legality, a very judicious man, and a man of a very good name, that has skill to help men off with such burdens as thine is from their shoulders; yea, to my knowledge, he hath done a great deal of good this way; aye, and besides, he hath skill to cure those that are somewhat crazed in their wits with their burdens. To him, as I said, thou mayst go, and be helped presently. His house is not quite a mile from this place; and if he should not be at home himself, he hath a pretty young man to his son, whose name is Civility, that can do it (to speak on) as well as the old gentleman himself: there, I say, thou mayst be eased of thy burden; and if thou art not minded to go back to thy former habitation, (as indeed I would not wish thee,) thou mayst send for thy wife and children to thee to this village, where there are houses now standing empty, one of which thou mayst have at a reasonable rate: provision is there also cheap and good; and that which will make thy life the more happy is, to be sure there thou shalt live by honest neighbors, in credit and good fashion.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman is saying, "Leave the advice of that conservative preacher, and come over here to this church where you can go to a man named Legality. Legality is one of the preachers in this church. This church has all kinds of preachers. In fact, they have more pastors than they do members. Legality is the person who only preaches about the law, to just keep the ten commandments the way the Pharisees did. Mr. Worldly Wiseman further says, "If Mr. Legality isn't home, then hunt up his son, Civility." Civility means decency or good manners. He says, "If Mr. Legality can't remove the burden or he isn't there, good manners will." So what is he pointing him to? Instead of going by the way of the cross, just go by the ten commandments, live a good decent life, and that is all that is necessary. Do you see what he is saying? He is giving him advice the way the man of the world would advise him.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman says, "When you settle in this church, you don't have to go back to the City of Destruction, in fact I don't want you to. But you can call for your wife

and children to come and settle down here with you too. Also, there are many good houses here in this community." He means that there are empty pews available for him in the established church. In the old established churches in England, you had to purchase a pew. That is, you had to buy your spot. So what he was saying here is that there are many empty pews in our church. "Also, if you come to our church, you are going to be surrounded by honest neighbors, and you can live with a good reputation and maintain your self respect." Now doesn't that appeal to the flesh? You can be on your way to heaven, be right with God, and yet you can enjoy all the things of the world where you never have to deal with the cross and your own sin. So this particular established religion allows one to maintain his self respect in the eyes of the world.

Now Christian was somewhat at a stand. He didn't know what to do; but presently he concluded, If this be true which this gentleman hath said, my wisest course is to take his advice: and with that he thus further spake.

So now, Christian falls into this error. If we would read in Bunyan's autobiography, he would say that there was a period of time that he went through in which he felt he was the most righteous man in England. He set out to live by the ten commandments, and he had no problem at all. He thought he was one of the most righteous men in all of England. So Bunyan is merely saying this is what he went through. He left the advice of that conservative pastor, Mr. Gifford, went on his way, and began to start practicing morality for a period of time.

So Christian says to Worldly Wiseman, "***Sir, which is my way to this honest man's house?***" How do I get to Mr. Legality's house? So Worldly Wiseman says, "***Do you see yonder high hill?***" Christian says, "***Yes, very well.***" Worldly Wiseman says, "***By that hill you must go, and the first house you come at is his.***"

This high hill is Mount Sinai. That is, in order to get to the law, you must go by Mount Sinai. In order to live by the ten commandments, you must go past this hill because Mr. Legality lives right at the base of this hill. Moses received the ten commandments on Mount Sinai, so right at the base of Mount Sinai, you will find Mr. Legality or the ten commandments. Worldly Wiseman says "If you start living by Legality's advice you will have your burden removed, and if by chance he is not home, then look up his son, Civility

(or decency) and just live a good decent life and everything will be alright."

So Christian turned out of the way to go to Mr. Legality's house for help. But behold, when he was got now hard by the hill, it seemed so high, and also that side of it that was next the way-side did hang so much over, that Christian was afraid to venture further, lest the hill should fall on his head; wherefore there he stood still, and wist not what to do. Also his burden now seemed heavier to him than while he was in his way.

Notice that Christian is off of the way now. He is not following the shining light. He is no longer on the road that leads to true conversion, the Wicket Gate, but he has been directed into a false teaching that you can be saved by your good works, by living a decent life, and by just observing the external observances of the ten commandments. Instead of finding that everything was going to be peaceful when he got up to the hill of Mount Sinai, suddenly it seemed that the hill was going to fall right on him. Instead of his burden becoming lighter, it says his burden now seemed heavier to him than while he was in the way.

There came also flashes of fire out of the hill, that made Christian afraid that he should be burnt. Here therefore he did sweat, and quake for fear. And now he began to be sorry that he had taken Mr. Worldly Wiseman's counsel; and with that he saw Evangelist coming to meet him.

Let's look at what has happened to him now. Remember, this is what the Bible or the Puritans would call an "awakened sinner," who is aware of his conscious need of forgiveness. Mr. Worldly Wiseman can walk right by the law and not see any of the flames or any of the smoke of God's wrath. Do you see the difference? Mr. Worldly Wiseman was not being dealt with by the Spirit of God, therefore he could justify himself just like the Apostle Paul before his conversion. Paul could say as ***"touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless."*** (Philippians 3:6)). The law could not condemn him. The Apostle could read the ten commandments - ***"Thou shall not kill."*** and say, "I haven't killed any body today, so I am not guilty." ***"Thou shall not steal."*** "I haven't stolen anything today - not guilty." ***"Thou shall not commit adultery."*** "I haven't run off with anybody's wife - not guilty." He could go right down the ten commandments and say, "I'm not guilty, I'm blameless." That is the way Mr. Worldly Wiseman could respond because he was not dealt with as Christian was. He did not have the burden on his back, and therefore, he could approach the law in a different fashion, not like the awakened sinner. When the

awakened sinner comes before God's law, he realizes that if he is going to live by "morality" he is going to be judged by morality, and it is not going to be his own standards, it will be God's standards. God's standards are perfect, and he has **"sinned, and come short of"** those standards (Romans 3:23). So he begins to fear even more because he is out of the way.

Let me illustrate this in bringing our subject to a close. Think back in your school days years ago, how many of you were allowed to grade your own papers once in awhile. Do you remember that? Do you remember the human nature in that too? I'm not going to ask for a show of hands of how many corrected their errors and gave themselves a passing grade when you were permitted to grade your own papers. But what is the tendency? I remember when I was given that opportunity, if the question was obviously wrong, I would have to check it wrong, but if it was questionable, that is, it wasn't worded quite the way the teacher said it ought to be, I could justify it like this, "Well, that is what I really meant." So I marked it correct. That is, instead of grading myself by the teacher's perfect standard, I set up my own standard, and then I graded myself. Now this is what people do when they settle down in the established religion. Instead of looking at God's standard, God's Holy Law, and measuring themselves in the light of that, they set their own standards, and when they do fail, they say, "Well, I really didn't mean to do that - here is what I really meant to do" and therefore they give themselves a passing grade. So there is no way that this kind of church member can ever really be made consciously aware of any wrong doing. Do you see that? It is because he is grading his own papers. The test is set up by him and he grades himself. This is what succumbing to the advice of Worldly Wiseman will lead one into. It lets one settle down in the established religion with no alive conscience to the gospel and to the law of God. However, when the awakened sinner sees that if he is going to attempt to live by the law, he reads in the Book of James **"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."** (James 2:10). Therefore, he says, "Im guilty!" Instead of the law being a very nice standard to live by, it condemns him more and more. We are going to have to leave our hero here at this point - almost settled down in established religion and yet still with this tremendous burden upon his back.

In our next setting Evangelist will explain the true nature of Mr. Worldly Wiseman

and how he nearly destroyed Pilgrim's soul. I remember though how many people in my ministry that I have influenced to try to seek the Lord. I am thinking of some that we were able to get them to come to church, and they listened to the advice that was given to seek the cross and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Then they wouldn't show up for a couple or three months. We would call on them and say, "We have been missing you in church." "Well, yes, we just haven't been coming." "Why haven't you been coming?" "Well, we go to another church now." "What church do you go to?" Their answer invariably includes many of the most liberal churches in the community that don't preach the gospel. There is a certain major denomination that has taken every reference to the blood of Christ out of their song books, because it is obnoxious to think about the blood and that slaughterhouse religion. So these people do just like Christian is going to do when Evangelist confronts them, they are going to drop their heads in shame and begin to blush a little bit because they have turned out of the true way. You can always tell they have fallen under the advice of Mr. Worldly Wiseman. Some person, relative, or some individual has given them worldly advice to "stay away from those who make too much of religion."

Here are the two fatal errors which you can fall into that will keep you out of true conversion. One is looking at sin too seriously so that you despair of ever being forgiven, and the other one is viewing sin too lightly so that sin is considered nothing more than just a few mistakes, and that good decent living and the observance of the law of God is all that is necessary. The next lesson will be "Evangelist Exposes Worldly Wiseman."