

***“The Pilgrims Progress”***  
***Look And Wonder***  
***(Pages 20b)***

**Introduction:**

1. Tonight - As We Continue Our Journey:
  - Through “The Pilgrims’ Progress” - We Come To:
    - A Very Short Section:
      - Along The King’s Highway:
        - But One That Is Full:
          - Of Profound Gospel Truths!
  - It Is The Place Where:
    - Christian Finally:
      - Is Relieved From:
        - His Burden!
    - It Is The Place Where:
      - On A Little Hill:
        - There Stood A Cross:
          - And Just Below It:
            - A Tomb!
2. And So:
  - Let’s Turn To & Read From:
    - Page 20, Paragraph 5 - Through The End Of The Page:
      - Starting With - *“Now I Saw In My Dream . . .”*
        - *Read Through Poem.*
3. On This Easter Sunday:
  - I Think It Is Appropriate For Us:
    - To Do What John Bunyan Tells Us Christian Did:
      - When He Was Relieved From His Burden:
        - At Just The Sight Of:
          - The Cross!
  - In Page 20, Paragraph 7 - We Are Told:
    - “Then He Stood Still Awhile To Look And Wonder!”
      - “Look And Wonder!”
        - Will You “Look And Wonder” A Bit More With Me Tonight:
          - As We Think About:
            - All That This Last Week Has Meant For Us?

\* First - “Look And Wonder” - At:

1. ***The Road Of Salvation!***
  - Which John Bunyan Described As:
    - “The Highway Up Which Christian Was To Go!”
      - He Describes It As Being:
        - “Fenced On Either Side With A Wall, And That Wall Was Called Salvation!”
  - Here - He Alludes To:
    - Isaiah 26:1 - Where We Are Told That:
      - “We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks!”
  - Christian Has Not Been On This Highway For Very Long:
    - But - It Did Begin:
      - At The “Wicket-Gate” - Which Was Opened To Him By The Man Named “Good-Will” - When:
        - He Knocked On The Door!
  - From That Moment On:
    - He Was Secure Within:
      - Those Walls!
        - He Was Even Given New Insight:
          - Into What His New Life Would Be Like:
            - At The House Of The Interpreter!
  - But - If You Remember:
    - He Was Still Dressed In Those Old, Muddy Rags:

- And He Still Had That Heavy Burden:
  - On His Back!
- So Many Who Have Heard & Read This Story:
  - Have Wondered - "Why?"
    - If He Knocked & The Door Of Salvation Was Opened Unto Him:
      - Why Does Bunyan Still Show Him In This Way?
- The Answer To This Question:
  - Is To See This Story:
    - As A Description Of John Bunyan's Own Spiritual Journey!
      - In His Autobiography Of Faith, Titled "Grace Abounding":
        - He Explains How For Three Years After He Trusted In Christ, He Still Struggled With The Burden Of His Guilt!
- And That Is Why - Even Along:
  - This "Road Of Salvation" - Though He Was Secure:
    - He Was Still Struggling!
      - He Still Experienced - As We Often Do:
        - A "Conflict" That Is "Between The Corruption Of The Flesh And The Righteous Desires Of His Renewed Soul!"
- "Look And Wonder" - At:
  - This Road Of Salvation!
    - Because It May Still Be, At Times:
      - A Struggle For You:
        - Even With The Guilt & Shame Of Your Sin!
  - But - You Are Nonetheless Secure:
    - Because Of The Promise Of Christ!
      - As He Says In John 6:37 - "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!"

\* Second - "Look And Wonder" - At:

## 2. ***The Relief In Salvation!***

- The Interesting Thing:
  - About The Road Of Salvation Is That:
    - Even Though It Is "Straight & Narrow":
      - And Leads From The City Of Destruction To The Celestial City:
        - It Is Never Far From:
          - The Place Of Deliverance!
    - IE: Its Like The Moon In The Sky - No Matter How Far You Go On This Earth - You Are Never Any Further From It!
- And So - As Christian:
  - "Came Up With The Cross":
    - Without Him Doing Anything - Or Even:
      - Thinking About It:
        - "His Burden Loosed From Off His Shoulders, And Fell From Off His Back" - Until It Fell Into "The Sepulchre!"
- Of Course - This Refers To:
  - The Freedom:
    - That Comes Through The Gospel:
      - Which - As The Apostle Paul Points Out In 1 Corinthians 15 - Is All About Christ!
    - 15:1-5 - "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; / By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. / For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; / And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: / And that he was seen!"
- You See - The Solution:
  - For A Burdened Conscience:
    - Is Not To Dwell On:
      - That Which Causes The Burden!
        - Your Sin & Your Guilt!
  - No - The Solution Is:

- To “Look And Wonder” At:
  - That Which Releases You:
    - From That Burden!
    - Christ! His Death! His Life!
- This Is What Happened To John Bunyan!
  - In His Book - “Grace Abounding” - He Wrote Of His Experience:
    - “I remember that one day as I was traveling into the country and musing on the wickedness and blasphemy of my heart, and considering of the enmity that was in me to God, that scripture came into my mind, He hath made peace by the blood of His Cross. By which I was made to see both again and again and again that day that God and my soul were friends by that blood: yea, I saw that the justice of God and my sinful soul could embrace and kiss each other through that blood. That was a good day to me; I hope I shall not forget it. I thought I could have spoken of His love and of His mercy to me that day to the very crows that sat upon the ploughed lands before me had they been capable to have understood me. Wherefore I said in my soul with much gladness, Well, I would I had a pen and ink here and I would write this down before I go any farther, for surely I will not forget this forty years hence!”
  - Oh, What Relief:
    - Bunyan And His Character, Christian, Now Possessed!
      - And This Relief Is Available:
        - At Any Time - When You Need A Fresh Reminder:
          - Of What Jesus Accomplished For You!
      - Just Do As He Did!
        - “Look And Wonder!”
        - And Then:

\* Third - “Look And Wonder” - At:

**3. *The Readiness For Salvation!***

- As Christian Lingered At The Sight Of The Cross:
  - With Great Surprise - And:
    - With Tears Of Joy:
      - Running Down His Cheeks:
        - Bunyan Tells Us Of “Three Shining Ones” That Came To Him!
  - Now - Who Are These Three?
    - There Are Some Who Believe:
      - They Are Three Angelic Messengers:
        - Sent By God To:
          - Encourage This Pilgrim With Fresh Illumination Into The Great Truths Of Salvation!
      - And - This Might Be What Bunyan Intended!
        - Hebrews 1:14 - Referring To Angels - “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”
  - I Rather Think They Represent:
    - The Trinity Of God:
      - Each Person Of The Godhead:
        - Bringing Fresh Comfort & Confirmation To The Christian:
          - Through The Truths Of Salvation!
  - As It Was For Christian - The Truth Of Your Peace With God:
    - Is Confirmed By All Three:
      - Of These Shining Ones:
        - As They Say - With One Voice:
          - “Peace Be To Thee!” - Also:
  - As It Was For Christian - The Truth Of Your Pardon From God:
    - Is Confirmed By The First “Shining One”:
      - When He Says:
        - “Thy Sins Be Forgiven Thee!”
      - But - As The Jews Rightly Understood:
        - “Who Can Forgive Sins But God Only?” (Mark 2:7)
  - And So - It Is God The Son:
    - Who Comforts The Struggling & Even Sorrowful Christian:
      - With A Fresh Reminder Of His Forgiveness & Cleansing!

- “Son” - Or - Daughter - “Thy Sins Be Forgiven Thee!”
- I Pardoned You!
  - I Purified You!
    - And - I Paid For All Of Your Sin! Also:
- As It Was For Christian - The Truth Of Your Position With God:
  - Is Confirmed By The Second “Shining One”:
    - When He “Stripped” Christian “Of His Rags, And Clothed Him ‘With Change Of Raiment.’”
  - Isn’t This What God The Father Does:
    - To Comfort Us - When We - Like Bunyan:
      - Are “Musing (Thinking) On The Wickedness And Blasphemy Of [Our] Heart”?
    - But - Not Just Our:
      - Failure In Sin - But Even:
        - Our Failure In Righteousness!
  - In Isaiah 64:6 - We Learn That:
    - Its Not Just Our Sins:
      - That Make Up Our Ragged Garments:
        - But Even Our “Righteousnesses!”
      - “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away!”
    - When You Fail:
      - Whether Its In That Which Is Bad - Or Even:
        - In That Which Is Good:
          - You Need A Fresh Reminder That Your Position & Standing With God Has Nothing To Do:
            - With What You Do Or Don’t Do! Its In Who You Are! By Faith!
            - Also:
  - As It Was For Christian - The Truth Of Your Possession By God:
    - Is Confirmed By The Third “Shining One”:
      - Who “Set A Mark On His Forehead!”
    - We Are Familiar With:
      - The “Mark Of The Beast” In:
        - The Book Of Revelation!
    - But - There Is Another Mark - And That Is:
      - The “Mark Of The Believer!”
        - Revelation 9:4 - “The Seal Of God In Their Foreheads!”
    - This Mark:
      - Is What Sets God’s People Apart:
        - As His Own!
      - It Is A Reminder To Everyone What He Thinks & Feels About Those Who Trust In Christ!
        - “Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine!” (Isaiah 43:1)
    - And This Mark Is A Symbol:
      - Of Being Sealed By God The Holy Spirit:
        - “Whereby Ye Are Sealed Unto The Day Of Redemption!” (Ephesians 4:30)
      - And So - As It Was For Christian:
        - Another Truth Is Confirmed By This Third Shining One - And That Is:
  - The Truth Of Your Pledge By God!
    - Which Is Symbolized By:
      - The “Roll With A Seal Upon It!”
        - This Is The Assurance That The Lord Gives To You:
          - Through The Sanctifying Work Of The Holy Spirit!
    - As We Will Soon See:
      - This “Roll” And Assurance:
        - Can Sometimes Get Lost!
          - But - It Still - And We Still:
            - Remain Sealed!
  - Spend Some Time Tonight:
    - To “Look And Wonder” Some More:
      - At These Salvation Truths!

- Especially When:
  - You Struggle With:
    - Temptation & The “Trial Of Your Faith!”
- When You Take A Fresh Look:
  - At The Cross - And:
    - Like Christian - “Look Again” & Again:
      - I Think You Too Will Find:
        - Fresh Confirmation & Comfort In These Truths!
- And That Will Lead To - Fourth:

**4. *The Rejoicing In Salvation!***

- Even As Christian - We Are Told:
  - “Gave Three Leaps For Joy!”
    - Reminds Me Of The Lame Man Who Was Healed At The Temple By The Lord:
      - Through Peter & John:
        - “Immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. / And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God!” (Acts 3:7-8)
  - Well - When Christian’s Heart & Soul:
    - “Received Strength” - By The Fresh Comfort:
      - Of These Gospel Truths:
        - He Could Do Nothing Less!
  - And So - He “Went On Singing!”
    - The Lord Had Put:
      - “A New Song In [His] Mouth, Even Praise Unto [His] God!” (Psalm 40:3)
        - “Blest Cross!” - He Sang!
        - “Blest Sepulchre!” - But:
        - “Blest Rather Be – The Man That There Was Put To Shame For Me!”

**Cconclusion:**

1. The Joy Of Christian:
  - Was But A Reflection Of:
    - The Joy Of John Bunyan!
      - As He Received These Fresh Comforts From The Lord - He Also Wrote:
        - “Now did my chains fall off my legs indeed, I was loosed from my affliction and irons, my temptations also fled away; now went I also home rejoicing, for the grace and love of God! Here, therefore, I lived for some time, very sweetly at peace with God through Christ; Oh methought, Christ! Christ! there was nothing but Christ that was before my eyes!”
2. Won’t You Too:
  - “Look And Wonder” Once Again:
    - At Christ?
      - He Came For You!
      - He Lived For You!
      - He Died For You!
      - He Rose For You!
      - And - If You Are His:
        - He Is Coming Again For You!
  - “Look And Wonder!”

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