



THE
PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS

JOHN BUNYAN

THE PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS

The
Bunyan Press

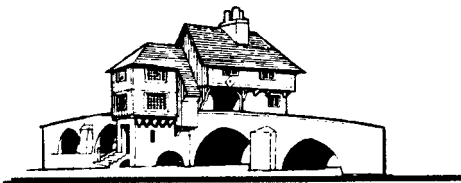
7th printing 2010

© UITGEVERIJ “DE BANIER”, UTRECHT 2010

Illustrations: Albert Wessels

© JOHN BUNYAN STICHTING, BARNEVELD 2010

© ENGLAND: THE BUNYAN PRESS, HARPENDEN, 2010



**THE
PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS**

JOHN BUNYAN

A brief introduction

2010

GOSPEL STANDARD TRUST PUBLICATIONS

12B Roundwood Lane, Harpenden,

Herts, AL5 3BZ, England

An Introduction to The Pilgrim's Progress

Dear Reader,

Here is a booklet that tells the story of a man on a journey from earth to heaven.

The story is so famous that it has been translated into many languages.

The author had a dream and it made such an impression on him that he wrote it in a book and called it "The Pilgrim's Progress".

What the book teaches us is very important because it tells us where to find real happiness, solid joy and lasting treasure.

It gives examples of those who will get to Heaven at last, and those who will not. It shows us where and to whom we should look for all needed help in the journey of life.

The purpose of this booklet is to encourage you to seek after those true riches which are treasured up in the Lord Jesus Christ.

This booklet contains only a small part of the full story, and it is hoped that when you have read it you will want to acquire the complete book.

The Word of God (the Bible) is, of course, our only infallible guide. Nevertheless, The Pilgrim's Progress is most instructive.

JOHN BUNYAN

John Bunyan, the author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, was born in Elstow, near Bedford, England, in 1628. The little that he learnt at school he soon forgot, but when he married his wife helped him to read and write.

He was a tinker by trade and in 1657 became a preacher.

In 1660 he was put in prison because he refused to obey the authorities and give up preaching. Whilst in prison he had a dream, and this dream he wrote down and called "*The Pilgrim's Progress*". In the book Bunyan calls the main character Christian, but Bunyan could have given the character his own name because it is nothing less than a portrait of himself.

Bunyan died in 1688 which serves as a solemn reminder that there is a time to be born and a time to die.

Let us turn to the story.

Joel 2 : 28, Matthew 25 : 13



HOPE IN DESPAIR

Christian is holding in his hand the Word of God. He has read there that he has sinned against God and must flee from the City of Destruction where he lives if he wants to escape from the wrath to come.

He remembers the sins of his past life and the thought fills him with alarm and dismay.

His sins weigh heavily upon him, like a burden on his back.

His clothes seem to hang on him like filthy rags. He wants to get rid of his burden but does not know how to.

He cries out in despair, "What shall I do?"

He dare not live as before lest he perish in his sins. Mercifully God will help those that seek Him.



WHAT SHALL I DO?

At first Christian tries to conceal his grief from the family, but in the end he pours out his heart to them. “My dear wife and children,” he says, “I am undone.”

This was strange language indeed. They had never heard him talk like this before.

He tells them of his sin and the burden on his back, and that they and the city where they live will be burned with fire unless they can find some way of escape.

His wife and children think that he is losing his reason and as it is late urge him to go to bed hoping he will be better in the morning.

Morning comes, but instead of being better he is worse.

His family cannot cope with him like this so they begin to rebuke and ridicule him.

He returns to his room so miserable and prays to God to have compassion on his family.

Although your family and friends may not understand you, God will.

Psalm 51 : 16, Luke 15 : 16



RIGHT DIRECTION

Thinking of nothing else but the Day of Judgment and the wrath to come, Christian walks in the fields reading from his Book and praying, “What must I do to be saved?”

A man comes up to him whose name is Evangelist. He is a messenger from God and he asks Christian why he is crying.

Christian tells him that he does not want to die, nor dare he face the Judgment, because the burden on his back will sink him to Hell.

Evangelist tells Christian that the way to escape is to go to a narrow gate and knock, and there he will be told what to do. Christian leaves the City of Destruction in spite of entreaties by his family and friends to return.

Pay heed to the Lord’s messengers when they deliver the Lord’s message.

Hosea 5 : 15, Luke 13 : 24



A DANGEROUS SWAMP

On his way Christian is joined by a man named Pliable. They are so busy talking that before they know what is happening they are sinking in a bog.

It is miry and muddy and they cannot see the bottom. Somehow Pliable manages to climb out the wrong side but Christian sinks lower and lower because of the burden on his back. Pliable goes back. Soon a man comes along, pulls Christian out and sets him on solid ground. The man, whose name is Help, asks him what he is doing there.

Christian explains that he is in a hurry to get to the narrow gate and had not noticed the stepping stones. This bog Bunyan calls the Slough of Despond.

When a pilgrim becomes aware of his sin and realises he is lost, all kinds of doubts and fears arise in his soul because his heart seems like a bog full of mire and filth.

Thanks be to God, the gospel gives hope to those who have a feeling sense of their sin.

Psalm 51 : 16, Luke 15 : 16



PILGRIM AT MOUNT SINAI

In the way, Christian meets a man called Worldly Wiseman who tells him a quick way of getting rid of his burden.

Heedless of the advice of Evangelist and Help, Christian follows the directions of Worldly Wiseman and comes to a hill from which flames come forth threatening to destroy him.

It is Mount Sinai, the mount from which God gave His ten commandments to the children of Israel for them to obey.

Christian is terrified when he recalls his former transgressions and fears to move. How can he escape the consequences?

Evangelist appears on the scene and asks him why he is there and why he has turned out of the way so quickly.

Christian is speechless.

Evangelist kindly directs him back to the right way that leads to the narrow gate.

God has given the ten commandments but they condemn us because we cannot keep them. God also sees the sins of the heart such as evil thoughts, unbelief and pride.

The right and only way to escape the wrath to come is the way of the cross.

Isaiah 64 : 6, Galatians 3 : 10