

OUTLINED STUDY MANUAL

THE
PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS

JOHN BUNYAN



Accurate Revised Text

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT



WHEN five years of age, my elder sister took me to an after school meeting for children at the local Baptist church. It was there that I first encountered a never-to-be-forgotten, colored lantern-slide presentation of John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

The allegorical adventure thoroughly gripped me. I can still vividly picture that meeting even fifty years afterward. Poor Christian certainly drew my sympathy with his bowed-down posture. How enthralled I was with the pilgrim's close confrontation with savage lions. The battle with Apollyon was better than any modern shoot-out, whether military, western, galactic, or otherwise. Certainly Giant Despair and his wife in Doubting Castle were a match for any contemporary foul fiends. And then what pathos there was at the River of Death, only to be followed by the triumphal entry of Christian into such a radiant and golden city. The whole perilous journey has been burned upon my soul to this day.

But I also believe that, even then, a simple account of gospel truth was laid as a foundation in my soul. Because of this, how grateful I am for those who, quite unawares, yet left me with an indelible legacy of the second best book in all the world.

Barry E. Horner

COMMENDATION



PERHAPS next to the first publishers of the gospel of the blessed God, these sayings were never more strongly exemplified in any single individual (at least in this, or the last century) than in the conversion, ministry and writings of that eminent servant of Jesus Christ, Mr. John Bunyan, who was of the meanest occupation, and a notorious sabbath-breaker, drunkard, swearer, blasphemers, &c. by habitual practice.

And yet, through rich, free, sovereign, distinguishing grace, he was chosen, called, and afterwards formed, by the all-powerful operations of the Holy Spirit, to be a scribe ready instructed to the kingdom of God. The two volumes of his works formerly published [in 1736], with the success that attended them in pulling down Satan's strong-holds in sinners' hearts, when sent forth in small detached parties, are pregnant proofs of this. Some of them have gone through a great variety of editions.

His *Pilgrim's Progress* in particular, has been translated into various languages, and to this day is read with the greatest pleasure, not only by the truly serious, of different religious persuasions, but likewise by those, to whom pleasure is the end of reading. Surely it is an original, and we may say of it, to use the words of the great Doctor Goodwin in his preface to the Epistle to the Ephesians, that it smells of the prison. It was written when the author was confined in Bedford jail. And ministers never write or preach so well as when under the cross: the spirit of Christ and of glory then rests upon them.

George Whitefield

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CHRISTIAN AND PLIABLE
CONVERSE ALONG THE WAY

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A NOW I saw in my dream that when *Obstinate* had turned back, *Christian* and *Pliable* talked as they went ahead over the plain; and thus they entered into earnest conversation.

CHRISTIAN: Now tell me, neighbor *Pliable*; how are you getting along? I am glad you were persuaded to come along with me. Had even *Obstinate* felt what I have sensed concerning the powers and terrors of the world to come that are presently unseen, he would not have so lightly turned his back upon us.

PLIABLE: Then good neighbor *Christian*, since there are only the two of us here, do tell me further of the things that are ahead, what they are like, how they will be enjoyed, and where we are going.

CHRISTIAN: I can better appreciate them with my mind than with my tongue. Nevertheless, since you are eager to know, I will describe them to you from my book.

PLIABLE: And do you believe that the words of your book are certainly true?

CHRISTIAN: Yes, definitely so, for it was written by he who cannot possibly lie.¹

B PLIABLE: Well said; tell me, what things are they?

CHRISTIAN: There is an endless kingdom to be inhabited, and everlasting life to be given to us so that we may inhabit that kingdom forever.²



Pliable

¹ Tit. 1:2.

² Isa. 45:17; John 10:27-29.

PLIABLE: Again, well said; but tell me still more.

CHRISTIAN: There are crowns of glory to be given to us, and garments³ that will make us shine like the sun in the firmament of *Heaven*.⁴

PLIABLE: This is excellent. What further details are there?

CHRISTIAN: There will be no more crying or sorrow; For he who is the owner of that place will wipe all tears from our eyes.⁵

PLIABLE: And what company shall we have there?

CHRISTIAN: There we shall be with the seraphim and cherubim,⁶ creatures that will dazzle your eyes to look on them. There also you shall meet with the thousands and ten thousands that have traveled ahead of us to that place; none of them are unkind, but rather loving and holy, everyone walking in the sight of *God* and standing in his presence with everlasting acceptance. In a word, there we shall see the elders with their golden crowns;⁷ there we shall see the holy virgins with their golden harps.⁸ There we shall see men who were, by this present world, cut in pieces, burnt in flames, eaten by beasts, drowned in the sea,⁹ because of the love that they maintained for the Lord of the place, all well, and clothed with the garment of immortality.¹⁰

PLIABLE: The hearing of this is enough to ravish a person's heart. But how shall we be able to enjoy and share in these things?

CHRISTIAN: The Lord, the governor of that country, has recorded in this book¹¹ that, in essence, if we are truly willing to have them, he will bestow them upon us freely.¹²

C PLIABLE: Well, my good companion, I am glad to hear of these things; so come on, let us mend our pace [*travel more rapidly*].

CHRISTIAN: But I cannot go as fast as I would like on account of this burden that is on my back.¹³

³ Matt. 13; II Tim. 4:8; Rev. 3:4.

⁴ Gen. 1:16.

⁵ Isa. 25:8; Rev. 7:16-17; 21:4.

⁶ Isa. 6:2; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 5:11.

⁷ Rev. 4:4.

⁸ Rev. 14:1-5.

⁹ John 12:25.

¹⁰ II Cor. 5:2-5.

¹¹ Isa. 55:12; John 6:37; 7:37; Rev. 21:6; 22:17.

¹² Isa. 55:1-7; Rom. 3:24; 5:17; 8:32.

¹³ *Conviction of sin distinguishes Christian from Pliable.*

3 CHRISTIAN AND PLIABLE CONVERSE ALONG THE WAY

A *Christian* enquires concerning *Pliable's* commitment.

1. He assumes that *Pliable's* motivation is similar to his own.
2. He condemns *Obstinate* for lightly spurning weighty testimony.
3. He commends *Pliable* to the truth of his reliable book.

B *Christian* encourages *Pliable* regarding future delights.

1. An endless kingdom and everlasting life.
2. Crowns of glory and radiant garments.
3. No more crying, sorrow, or tears.
4. The company of innumerable angels, saints, and martyrs.
5. The knowledge that these blessings come freely.
6. Application. *Christian* seems blissfully unaware that *Pliable* does not travel with the restriction of a felt burden.

C *Pliable* is initially enthused and suggests a faster pace.

1. His eagerness is yet wrongly motivated.
2. His light step contrasts with *Christian's* burdened struggle.
3. Application. Unlike struggling *Christian*, *Pliable* perceives his pilgrimage as a happy jaunt along a sprint track rather than the dangerous traversing of enemy territory.