

Pilgrim's Progress - Study Guide to Chapter 1

I. The Apology (pp. 383-389)

Unusual words:

apology = to defend

palliate = to make less severe

carper = one who complains constantly, nags

amain = strongly, with speed or haste

"I fell suddenly into an allegory"

allegory = the surface meaning parallels and illustrates a deeper meaning

Why Bunyan started this book: "I did it **my own self to gratify** _____"

Some said, John, **print it** _____; others said, **No** _____.

Some love **the meat** _____, some love **to pick the bone** _____.

His critics said, "metaphors **make us make us blind** _____."

Bunyan's answer:

"Were not God's laws... held forth by **types** _____, **shadows** _____, and **metaphors** _____?"

Bunyan asks, "Art thou forgetful? Then read my fancies; they will **stick like burrs** _____"

Conclusion: Lay **my book** _____, **thy head** _____, and **heart** _____ together.

II. The Journey to the Slough (pp. 5-15)

lighted on = came upon by chance or accident

Came upon a "den" — of what den does Bunyan speak? **the Bedford jail** _____

Christian:

Match his description with Bunyan's margin references:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Isaiah 64:6 | "What shall I do?" Ac 2.37 |
| 2. Luke 14:33 | a book in his hand Hab 2.2 |
| 3. Habakkuk 2:2 | a burden on his back Ps 38.4 |
| 4. Psalm 38:4 | dressed in rags Isa 64.6 |
| 5. Acts 2:37 | with his back to his house Lk 14.33 |

Several images are given in the description of the man's condition:

1. City of Destruction: How did Christian (and Obstinate and Pliable) come to be citizens of this city?
They were born in this city
2. 'Clothed in rags': what does Christian's clothing represent?
His own self-righteousness, his works
3. What is the great burden that Christian bears? (See Ps 38.4; Isa 64.6; Heb 2.2)
The weight and guilt of his sin
4. What is the nature of the book Christian is reading and what does it do for him?
The book is the Law and it condemns him and his sin
5. In his state of conviction, how does Christian's family treat him?
They mock him and chide him

Evangelist:

"I saw a man named Evangelist coming to him"

Tophet = place of fire, illustration of hell (Is 30:33, 2 Ki 23:10)

Wicket gate = small door set in a larger gate

6. When Christian gives Evangelist his answer concerning his state, what does his answer reveal concerning his state of mind and understanding of the book he reads?
He is in anguish of soul and conviction of sin, and fear of death
7. What does the Evangelist urge Christian to do (by means of a piece of parchment)?
flee from the wrath to come – run away from judgement
8. What is the role of the Evangelist, both in Bunyan's account and in 'real life'?
He is a pastor and counselor
9. The Evangelist points Bunyan to a light. What is that light? (Jn 8.12)
the light of Christ

Obstinate and Pliable

"Two that were resolved to fetch him back by force"

"What, said Obstinate, and leave **friends** _____ and **comforts** _____ behind us?"

Pliable: "I intend to **go along with this good man** _____"

Christian's neighbours represent two things: they represent the reactions of men outside the convicted soul *and* they represent inner possibilities within Christian himself.

10. What sort of reaction to the gospel does Obstinate represent? To whom does he present a danger?
Obstinate is stubborn, willfully ignorant, loud and domineering. He is a danger to those easily influenced by strong men.

11. Though seemingly desirous of receiving Christian's witness, Pliable has a fatal flaw in his thinking, reflected by the significant differences between Christian and Pliable. What are those differences?
Pliable has no conviction of sin; Pliable is only interested in what can please him; unwilling to endure hardship

Slough of Despond

Slough = swampy, muddy mire

Scum = conviction of sin

Despond = lose confidence or hope

12. What does the Slough of Despond represent to Christian, a man under conviction of sin and pointed to the Light of Christ as the answer? (See Ps 69.1-5)
He is mired down in the depression caused by conviction of sin, the accusing voice of fears and doubts
13. How is it that Pliable, with no burden and a shallow sense of the gospel, finds himself in the Slough of Despond, just like the convicted Christian?
By heedlessness — he is like the seed that falls on stony ground, when the sun comes out, it beats it down
14. What has God done to Help those captured (or about to be captured) in this paralyzing slough of despond?
Given thousands of sure promises (the stepping stones) and heaps of wholesome instructions from such as have gone before