

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_"

Some said, John, \_\_\_\_\_; others said, \_\_\_\_\_.

Some love \_\_\_\_\_, some love \_\_\_\_\_.

His critics said, "metaphors \_\_\_\_\_."

Bunyan's answer:

"Were not God's laws... held forth by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_?"

Bunyan asks, "Art thou forgetful? Then read my fancies; they will \_\_\_\_\_"

Conclusion: Lay \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ 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? \_\_\_\_\_

**Christian:**

Match his description with Bunyan's margin references:

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Isaiah 64:6  | "What shall I do?"         |
| 2. Luke 14:33   | a book in his hand         |
| 3. Habakkuk 2:2 | a burden on his back       |
| 4. Psalm 38:4   | dressed in rags            |
| 5. Acts 2:37    | with his back to his house |

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?

2. 'Clothed in rags': what does Christian's clothing represent?
3. What is the great burden that Christian bears? (See Ps 38.4; Isa 64.6; Heb 2.2)
4. What is the nature of the book Christian is reading and what does it do for him?
5. In his state of conviction, how does Christian's family treat 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?
7. What does the Evangelist urge Christian to do (by means of a piece of parchment)?
8. What is the role of the Evangelist, both in Bunyan's account and in 'real life'?
9. The Evangelist points Bunyan to a light. What is that light? (Jn 8.12)

### **Obstinate and Pliable**

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

"What, said Obstinate, and leave \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ behind us?"

Pliable: "I intend to \_\_\_\_\_"

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?
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?

## **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)
  
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?
  
14. What has God done to Help those captured (or about to be captured) in this paralyzing slough of despond?