

I. By-path meadow “on the left hand of the road a meadow”

The way from the river was **rough** _____, and their feet **tender** _____.

Stile = steps for getting over a fence.

A man called **Vain-confidence** _____ told them it was the right path.

What did they trust by leaving the way taking the ease of By-path meadow? **their own understanding** _____

What does the ease of By-path meadow represent? **it represents avoidance of the difficulties and reproaches of walking with Christ** _____

Hopeful: I would have spoken plainer, but **that you are older than I** _____.

Prov 14.12 ‘There is a way which seemeth **right** _____ unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of **death** _____.

II. Doubting castle “there was...a castle, called Doubting Castle”

Owned by Giant **Despair** _____

Christian had double sorrow, because ‘twas **through his unadvised counsel that they were brought into this distress** _____

Doubt and despair are often the spiritual consequences of sin. What sins can lead to these consequences?

various answers _____

On the advice of **Diffidence** _____, the giant beat them with a grievous crab-tree **cudgel** _____ (club).

Christian suggests suicide, but Hopeful says that would be **murder** _____.

“Show them the **bones** _____ and **skulls** _____ of those that thou hast already dispatched (killed).”

III. Escape “What a fool, quoth he, am I”

“I have a key in my bosom, called **Promise** _____.”

What activity brought to mind Christian’s key? **prayer** _____

Note: Bunyan uses a word here, “d _nable” (p. 141), which would not have been considered profane in his day but has become so in our day. Meanings and uses change, and as they do, Christians should be wise and refrain from that which is profane.

They consented to erect there **a pillar** _____.

“Though the pilgrims had sinned greatly in leaning to their own understanding, God had graciously taught them some valuable lessons from this bitter experience. They had learned never to depart from God’s Way and anything that he desired them to go through, to value the light of God’s countenance and to distrust themselves more thoroughly. They had been taught the dreadful evil of sin and sin’s consequences; they had seen their weakness and Christ’s strength and that the only way of deliverance was by casting themselves totally on Christ.”¹

¹ Maureen Bradley, *Pilgrim’s Progress Study Guide*, p. 73.

IV. Delectable Mountains “they came to the Delectable Mountains”

Delectable = delightful, pleasing

Various interpretations have been given for the Delectable Mountains: just a place of rest, the local church, the ministry of the Word by godly pastors. Maureen Bradley suggests perhaps Sabbath Rest, in keeping with the Puritan idea that the Sabbath [Sunday] was a ‘market day for the soul.’

If one considers Sunday to be “a day set aside for instruction in Sunday school, for sitting under the preaching of godly ministers, and for meditation on Scripture and prayer,”² how would the Delectable Mountains remind you of a market day for the soul?

various answers _____

They were asked three questions:

1. Whence came you? _____
2. How got you into the way? _____
3. By what means have you persevered therein? _____

“Few of them that begin to come hither, do show their face on these mountains _____.”

Shepherds named:

1. Knowledge _____
2. Experience _____
3. Watchful _____
4. Sincere _____

V. Wonders “shall we show these pilgrims some wonders?”

A. A hill called Error _____

“hearkening to Hymenaeus _____ and Philetus _____.” (2 Tim. 2:17-18)

What causes Christians to fall into error? by listening to worldly talk instead of faithful Bible doctrine _____
_____ (2 Tim 2.16)

B. Another mountain called Caution _____.

Men wandering among the tombs _____ because they were captured by Giant Despair _____.

How does a thoughtful Christian make use of Caution? by observing the errors of others _____

C. Another place in a bottom, where was a door _____, a “by-way to hell _____.”

Types of people who seem to be believers (“a show of pilgrimage”) and yet end up in hell, and their biblical parallels:

1. Such as sell their birthright, with Esau _____
2. Such as sell their Master, with Judas _____
3. Such as blaspheme the Gospel, with Alexander _____
4. Such as lie and dissemble, with Annanias and Sapphira _____

D. A high hill called Clear _____

² Bradley, p. 75.

Perspective glass = viewing device, like a telescope or binoculars

Though Christian and Hopeful can only see through the glass 'darkly', partly because of their own weakness, what does the vision of Celestial glory give them?

encouragement, hope, motivation to carry on
