

# The Pilgrim's Progress

HTPC Summer 2019  
OPENING ASSEMBLY  
Week 2

## Memory Verse

*For here we have no  
lasting city, but we seek  
the city that is to come.*

(Hebrews 13:14)

# The Christian's Hope Can Never Fail

We travel through a barren land,  
With dangers thick on every hand;  
But Jesus guides us through the vale;  
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

We trust upon the sacred word,  
The oath and promise of the Lord;  
And safely through each tempest sail;  
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

# The Pilgrim's Progress

Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-21)

- The Pilgrimage Begins
- Obstinate, Pliable, and the Slough of Despond
- Worldly-wiseman, Legality, and Civility

# The Pilgrimage Begins

- God's Word as a "Mirror"

“As I watched, I saw him open the Book and begin to read. And as he read, he wept and trembled. Then, not being able to contain himself any longer, he cried out in anguish, asking, ‘What shall I do?’” (3)

*13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that **sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.***  
*(Romans 7:13)*

“The Scripture made me faint and fear, yet it kindled fire in my soul ... And though I was much troubled, and tossed, and afflicted, with the sight and sense and terror of my wickedness, yet I was afraid to let this sight and sense go quite off my mind: that unless guilt of conscience was taken off the right way, that is by the blood of Christ a man grew rather worse for the loss of a troubled mind, than better.”

*Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*

John Bunyan

# Obstinate, Pliable, and The Slough of Despond

- Fear of the Loss of “friends and comforts” in this world (Obstinate)
- “Pursuit” of heavenly things without Spirit-wrought conviction (Pliable had no Burden viz Romans 7:13)
- Fears, doubts and discouragement (The Slough of Despond)

# Help in The Slough of Despond

“... as the sinner is awakened to his lost condition, many fears, doubts, and discouraging anxieties arise in his soul. All of them come together and settle here in this place, and that is the reason this ground is no good.” (11)

“I was not without temptations to go back again; temptations I say, both from Satan, mine own heart, and carnal acquaintance; but I thank God these were outweighed by that sound sense of death and of the day of judgment, which abode, as it were, continually in my view ...” -- *Grace Abounding*, Bunyan

# Worldly-wiseman, Legality, and Civility

- **Presenting Issue:** The temptation to relieve a conscience under conviction of sin apart from Spirit-wrought application of Law and Gospel.

“I would direct you to what you are looking for without the dangers that you’ll encounter by going this way ... instead of dangers, you’ll find abundant safety, friendship, and contentment.” (15)

- **The error of Legality and Civility:** *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.* (Romans 3:20)

# The Wisdom of the World and The Fear of God

*9 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? 10 Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” (Job 1:9-11; cf., Matthew 4:3-11)*

*24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. (Hebrews 11:24-26)*

# Closing Assembly

# He Who Would Valiant Be

1. He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

2. Who so beset him round with dismal stories  
Do but themselves confound—his strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight,  
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim.

3. Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labor night and day to be a pilgrim.