

## Giant Despair & Doubting Castle Pilgrim's Progress # 8

Introduction: As a Christian Bunyan despaired of his Christianity for some two years  
(See Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners 44-66)

- I. Leaving the Pathway
  - A. The way had become difficult.
    1. We forget Lk. 6:26
    2. We forget Acts. 14:22
    3. We forget Rom. 7:13-24
  - B. By-passes look smooth.
    1. A little neglect will not matter.
    2. Misplaced priority.
    3. Resting on past victories.
    4. Presuming on God's mercy and forgiveness.
    5. Redefining God on our own terms

Application:

1. Think what went through the minds of these saints as they entered By-Pass Meadow.

Jonah	1:3
David	II Sam. 11:1
Peter	Luke 22:33, 34
Peter	Gal. 2:11-13
Abram	Gen 16; 1-2
2. Older Christians may lead younger Christians out of an obedient path.
3. We can always find non-Christians who will advise us to sin. Note Mr. Vain-glory
4. What are some temptations today that steer Christians "just a little" away from obedience?

5. "Then I thought it is easier going out of the way when we are in, than going in, when we are out." (p. 109)

VI. Entering Doubting Castle

A. The two are captured by Giant Despair.

1. They were on his grounds.
2. They were asleep when found.
3. They were no match for Despair.

B. Their time in the Castle (Note Ps. 88:13-18)

1. Afflicted by Despair
2. Afflicted by their own memories
3. Tempted to do what they should not
4. Hopeful provides encouragement
  - a. Do not commit suicide
  - b. Remember past victories
  - c. Patiently endure

Application/Notes:

1. All of these remarks regarding despair must be set in the context that sometimes despair must be medically treated. Throughout this lesson we are not referring to that type of despair or the reasons for it.
2. When opportunity arises, younger Christian's have the responsibility to counsel older Christians (Acts. 9:26,27)
3. Note the unity of Despair and his wife (Mistrust) against the Christians.
4. What put the following into despair?

Asaph            Ps. 73:1-3

David            Ps. 51:1-4

Job            Job 6:1-10

Elijah        I Kings 19:4

5. Note the time of refreshment the two had prior to leaving the way. How quickly we can go from a great time to blessedness to great despair.
6. Those who see how much they can indulge in temptation will too often go further than they should.

#### VII. Escaping the Castle

- A. Not easy to do. Many false ways can be tried.
- B. Not easy to do unless the right way is used – application of the word of God.

Ps. 73:16, 17

Job 19:25

Rom. 8:28

Jonah 2:2-9

Ps. 127:1-5

2 Thess. 3:3

#### Application:

1. We despair when there is no reason to do.
2. God will never put more on us than we can bear. I Cor. 10:12, 13
3. Although the Christians put up a warning for others, those bent on doing their own thing will not heed the counsel of the experienced.