

Lesson Five **EVANGELIST EXPOSES WORLDLY WISEMAN**

Last week we left off at the point in our book in which we were dealing with our Pilgrim who has left the way. He has disregarded the advice of the Evangelist and has fallen into the trap of Mr. Worldly Wiseman. At the beginning of our lesson tonight, he has taken the advice of Mr. Worldly Wiseman and is heading toward the Village of Morality to settle down in that Village. We find him being confronted with the huge hill which represented the Law of God, or Mt. Sinai, and it was about to fall upon his back. We will begin at that point this evening. The Evangelist comes upon the scene and explains who this person, Mr. Worldly Wiseman, is and what he represents. Before we actually get into our reading of the text, we will briefly review what we have already found out about Mr. Worldly Wiseman.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman is an unconverted preacher who is a stranger to the workings of grace and the cross. In fact, he wants nothing to do with the message of the gospel. He uses the wisdom of the world in his approach to people. He lives in the Town of Carnal Policy. The word, "carnal" means fleshly. That is, he is a man of the world who uses the wisdom that the people of the world are capable of understanding. He counsels very strongly against the Evangelist, the minister who preaches the gospel. He has no love for these individuals. So, he directs the Pilgrim to this Village of Morality and tells him that there are some individuals in that Village who are very skilled in removing this consciousness of sin. Their names were Mr. Legality, who stands for the Law of God, and also, his son, Mr. Civility who stands for decent living. He told Pilgrim that if he would just go by this hill, he would soon be able to find these individuals there. Incidentally, the Village of Morality represents any established religion which is void of the truth of the gospel. Worldly Wiseman said, "You just go over there, listen to Mr. Legality, keep the ten commandments, and settle down to live a decent, moral life. That is all that will be required out of you. You can have your self respect and have all the blessings of God also. So, go on over there and the burden will be taken off."

So Christian succumbs to this advice, but as he is about to go by this high hill, suddenly the hill becomes a fire to him. Keep in mind that Christian is one who is lost, and he knows it. The other characters we have encountered thus far are individuals who are lost, but they don't know it. When those individuals come to the hill, which is Mt. Sinai, or the Law of Moses, they can live right at the base of that hill and try to keep the ten

commandments. But to the person who is lost and knows it, Mt. Sinai or the ten commandments are fire and brimstone unto him. Why is this? It is because he knows that if he is going to try to live by the law, he will be judged by the law. So here is the difference, the individual who does not know that he is lost, the hill of Sinai has little influence upon him because he thinks he can keep the ten commandments. But when the person who has been made aware of his lost condition tries to keep the ten commandments, he realizes that he is under the wrath of God. Beginning here at this point, we read these words,

And now he began to be sorry that he had taken Mr. Worldly Wiseman's counsel; and with that he saw Evangelist coming to meet him, at the sight also of whom he began to blush for shame. So Evangelist drew nearer and nearer; and coming up to him, he looked upon him with a severe and dreadful countenance, and thus began to reason with Christian.

This is the local little Baptist pastor, and our hero has just been influenced by the large influential minister of the established religion. This minister told him to stay away from that little Baptist pastor, because that Evangelist will get you all messed up. Notice Christian's countenance when the Evangelist approaches, because he is very stern and severe to look upon. He begins to reason with Christian and asks this question,

"What dost thou here, Christian?" At which words Christian knew not what to answer; wherefore at present he stood speechless before him. Then said Evangelist further, "Art not thou the man that I found crying without the walls of the city of Destruction?"

Chr. "Yes, dear sir, I am the man."

***Evan. "Did not I direct thee the way to the little wicket-gate?"
"Yes, dear sir," said Christian.***

Evan. "How is it then that thou art so quickly turned aside? For thou art now out of the way."

It important to note that the Evangelist says, "aren't you the person who I directed how to be converted? And didn't I direct you to the wicket gate?" Christians says, "Yes." Evangelist asked, "Then why are you so quickly turned out of the way, because you are not in the way of conversion anymore." That is, Christian has left the understanding of the Bible, and has embraced the wisdom of this present world, so he is out of the path.

Christian says:

I met with a gentleman so soon as I had got over the Slough of Despond, who persuaded me that I might, in the village before me, find a man that could take off my burden.

Evan. What was he?

Chr. He looked like a gentleman and talked much to me, and got me at last to yield; so I came hither; but when I beheld this hill, and how it hangs over the way, I suddenly made a stand, lest it should fall on my head.

Evan. What said that gentleman to you?

Chr. Why, he asked me whither I was going; and I told him.

Evan. And what said he then?

Chr. He asked me if I had a family; and I told him. But, said I, I am so laden with the burden that is on my back, that I cannot take pleasure in them as formerly.

Evan. And what said he then?

Chr. He bid me with speed get rid of my burden; and I told him it was ease that I sought. And, said I, I am therefore going to yonder gate, to receive further direction how I may get to the place of deliverance. So he said that he would show me a better way, and short, not so attended with difficulties as the way, sir, that you set me in; which way, said he, will direct you to a gentleman's house that hath skill to take off these burdens; so I believed him, and turned out of that way into this, if haply I might be soon eased of my burden. But when I came to this place, and beheld things as they are, I stopped, for fear, as I said, of danger: but I now know not what to do.

We presented to you last week that Mr. Worldly Wiseman was the second of two fatal errors that an individual can encounter before he comes to true conversion. The first of these errors is the Slough of Despond, which causes a person to view sin so despairingly that he has no hope of being forgiven. The other error is that of Mr. Worldly Wiseman who views sin so lightly that you do not even have to contend with it at all. It is that you just ignore the matter of sin, live a good decent moral life, give counsel to the ten commandments, and then everything will be alright.

Well, now here is our Pilgrim, who has succumbed to this worldly wisdom, and now he is under the wrath of God. The hill is about to fall on him, when the Evangelist encounters him again. Notice,

"Then said Evangelist, Stand still a little, that I may show thee the words of God."

In real life, this pastor might come to Pilgrim's house, or maybe meet him on the street, and ask him why he hasn't been seeing much of him lately. The man is going to tell him, "I just haven't been around because I have gotten out of the way." So the Pastor says, "Alright, stand still a little bit, sit down and let's talk. I want to show you what has happened in your experience."

So he stood trembling. Then said Evangelist, "See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh: for if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from Heaven."

He is quoting from Hebrews 12:25.

He said, moreover, "Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." (Hebrews 10:38)

I want us to note something about the manner in which the pastor is dealing with this individual who has gotten off the way of salvation. Notice how he is very stern with him and gives him no sympathy as to the man's actions. This would give us much insight if we compare it to the methods used by modern ministers in counseling men and women today. Usually if anyone shows or expresses any concern over their spiritual condition, whether they be saved or unsaved, the modern minister thinks that his duty is to immediately give some type of assurance of peace to that individual. That is, instead of really dealing with the man's situation, he tries to give a temporary comfort rather than a lasting peace. But notice the way Evangelist deals with this Pilgrim who is under a condemning conscience. His main aim is to produce a solid lasting peace, not a temporary comfort which may soon pass away. So, he doesn't say, "Well you haven't done anything really so bad. Just get back on the way here, and everything will be alright." No, he deals with him very severely, and he quotes the Scripture that the ***"Just shall live by faith, but if any man draws back"*** from the way of faith, the Bible says ***"my soul shall have no pleasure in him."*** Also notice that Evangelist applied these Scriptures to the Pilgrim's situation. This is

another important thing that we as teachers of the gospel need to understand. We must not only preach the Scriptures in their doctrinal fashion, but we must make an application that is proper to the hearer or hearers to whom we are talking. That is, the Bible theoretically and in its doctrinal form only, is not sufficient. We must explain the doctrine and apply that doctrine to the particular need of that individual. So the Evangelist does this. He says, **"Thou art the man."** Remember how David was confronted with his sin by Nathan the prophet. Nathan could have been rather vague about the matter when he told the story of the man who had all kinds of sheep, and the poor man that had the little lamb. As the story goes, the rich man had some visitors come to his home for a meal. So rather than going out and killing one of his own sheep, he went over and killed the neighbor's one little lamb. When David heard about this from Nathan, David became very upset and said "Let's have that man punished." What did Nathan the Prophet say? "David, **'Thou art the man.'**" The point is this. The Prophet or teacher of God who is going to be used of God, must know how to take the Scriptures and make them personal and applicable to that hearer, so that the hearer understands what his duty and responsibility is to God. The preaching in general terms does not get down to where the individual is sitting in the pew, and is not going to cause the individual to see what his duty is before God. So the Evangelist says,

Thou art the man that art running into this misery; thou has begun to reject the counsel of the Most High, and to draw back thy foot from the way of peace, even almost to the hazarding of thy perdition.

That is, he is saying, "I quoted this Scripture for you that **'the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, my soul has no pleasure in him.'**" Then he says, "Now, Pilgrim, you are that man. You were set on the way, the way of true salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, but now Worldly Wiseman has taken you out of the way, and you are the one that this Scripture is talking about." Here is the counsel that Evangelist is giving Christian.

Then Christian fell down at his feet as dead, crying, "Woe is me, for I am undone!" At the sight of which Evangelist caught him by the right hand,

Now I want you to notice that when Christian becomes very despondent and says, "Oh, its me, its me you are talking about, and I am undone," the pastor takes him by the right hand, that is, he will not let him sink into despair. Oh, that we would have men today that would know how to have the spiritual discernment to be able to deal with individuals. Evangelist

would not let Christian completely sink into despair, but quoted him this verse of Scripture.

***"All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men."
(Matthew 12:31) Be not faithless, but believing."***

When Christian says, "Its me, its right, I have gotten out of the way, I am undone, there is no hope," the local pastor says, "Wait a minute," and he quotes a verse of Scripture, ***"All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven"*** you. Be not faithless, but believing."

Then did Christian again a little revive, and stood up trembling, as at first, before Evangelist.

That is, Christian began to get his hopes up a little.

Then Evangelist proceeded, saying, "Give more earnest heed to the things that I shall tell thee of. I will now show thee who it was that deluded thee, and who it was also to whom he sent thee. The man that met thee is one Worldly Wiseman, and rightly is he so called; partly because he savoureth (desires) only of the doctrine of this world.

What is the doctrine of this world? In modern terminology, this worldly doctrine is, "Get all the gusto out of life you can, because you only go around one time." That is, the man of this world reasons that this is all there is to life, and there is no life hereafter that is even to be seriously considered. He further states, "However, even if there is, you should not let a life hereafter interfere with your present enjoyment of this present world." So this is the advice of the Worldly Wiseman. He desires the doctrine of this world. Then Bunyan says, ***"(therefore he always goes to the town of Morality to church.)"*** That is, he picks out a church which has ministers or teachers who have a good reputation for religion, but have very scanty or vague views of what the gospel is. What they emphasize is primarily morality and decent living and that is all. So this individual, Mr. Worldly Wiseman does desire to be religious, but he only wants to be religious up to the point where it doesn't interfere with his own present pursuits of the temporal things he can enjoy in this world. That is why ***"he always goes to the Town of Morality to church, and partly because he loves that doctrine best, for it saveth him best from the cross."*** That is, the Worldly Wiseman likes to settle down in a church that doesn't preach the gospel because it saves him from the humility of the cross. The cross brings a person low because he has to acknowledge that he cannot save himself by his own good works, by keeping of the law, and

by his own decent living, but he has to humble himself and acknowledge that without the grace of Jesus Christ, he has no right standing before God. So the Worldly Wiseman goes to a church that will save him from having to be humbled by the doctrine of the cross. **"And because he is of this carnal (or fleshly) temper, therefore he seeketh to pervert my ways, though right."** Evangelist says, "Now he told you to stay away from me because my ways would only bring despair to you. But I want you to understand why he told you that. It is because he doesn't like the doctrine of the cross, and because he desires the temporal things of this world rather than eternal values. That is why he doesn't like me and will pervert my teachings. Evangelist says,

There are three things in this man's counsel that thou must utterly abhor.

1. His turning thee out of the way.

2. His labouring to render the cross odious to thee.

3. His setting thy feet in that way that leadeth unto the administration of death.

What he is telling Christian here is simply this. There are three errors in the advice of Worldly Wiseman which are fatal to pilgrims seeking the Celestial City. Here is the first one. He says, His turning you out of the way.

First, thou must abhor his turning thee out of the way; yea, and thine own consenting thereto; because this is to reject the counsel of God for the sake of the counsel of a Worldly Wiseman. The Lord says, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate," the gate to which I send thee; "for strait is the gate that leadeth unto life, and few there by that find it." From this little wicket-gate, and from the way thereto, hath this wicked man turned thee, to the bringing of thee almost to destruction: hate, there, his turning thee out of the way, and abhor thyself for hearkening (or listening) to him. (Matthew 7:13, 14).

Now, what has this man, Worldly Wiseman, done to our Pilgrim? It is simply this. He sets forth with the motive to give individuals peace without God, instead of peace with God. Think about that for just a

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moment. The Worldly Wiseman seeks to give an individual peace without God rather than peace with God. Romans 5:1 says, **"Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God."** That is the way of salvation. It is only through that narrow wicket-gate that

we come into a settled peace with God. But Worldly Wiseman wants his people to have peace without God. In other words, people can be settled that everything is alright, there is nothing wrong with them, and they don't have to go the way of the cross. So, this Pilgrim needs to be warned against Worldly Wiseman because he turns individuals out of the true way of salvation by grace through faith. He thereby gives them some type of false assurance that they can settle down in the established religion, become a church member, and then go right on from that church to the doors of hell itself.

Evangelist further explains the second thing that Worldly Wiseman does that must be avoided, and that is, **"he labored to render the cross odious to thee."** That is, he

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warned Pilgrim, "you need to avoid that old bloody religion." I think I mentioned last week that a certain major denomination here in the United States has removed all references to the blood in their song books. They have done that because they believe

that the "old slaughterhouse bloody religion" is offensive. So if that church uses the established hymnal of the denomination, no longer will you hear such songs as *"There is a Fountain Filled with Blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins."* My friend, when you take that out, you have taken the heart of true Christianity out, because it is the cross of Jesus Christ that is **"the way, the truth and the life."** (John 14:6). The Worldly Wiseman and the liberal church will go to great effort to try to make the cross offensive to the minds of its hearers, and to try to make decent living and keeping of the commandments the only thing that is necessary for one to be acceptable before God. That system of religion is under a curse. It has been under a curse ever since Cain tried to have God accept this same system of worship. God rejected the worship of Cain, which was a self-willed worship, and He accepted Abel's sacrifice. What was the result? What did Cain do? He rose up and slew his brother Abel because God rejected the worship that he brought to Him. All Cain brought was just the labor of his hands, his good works, his decency, his morality, and he refused to bring the blood sacrifice that Abel brought which identified his relationship with God. So Worldly Wiseman is an expert in making the cross offensive to an individual who is seeking the way of salvation. Also, in this respect, the Evangelist says,

Besides, the King of glory hath told thee, that he that will save his life

shall lose it. And he that comes after him, and hates not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be His disciple. I say, therefore, for man to labor to persuade thee that that shall be thy death, without which, the truth hath said, thou canst not have eternal life; this doctrine thou must abhor. (Matthew 10:37-39).

That is, Evangelist explained, "if any man teaches that you can have eternal life apart from the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, it is a false teaching, and you need to avoid that teaching just like you would avoid the plague itself, because that teaching leads to the pit itself."

Then the third thing he says is, "***his setting thy feet in that way that leadeth unto the administration of death.***" In other words, "He has not only taken you off the true way, and he has not only made that way offensive to you, but he has set you on a false way." Thereby Bunyan would bring to your remembrance the Scripture, "***For broad is the way that leadeth unto destruction.***" (Matthew 7:13). Oh, how subtle the advice of this world is, and how easy it is for pilgrims to listen to those who have a good reputation in the religious community, but yet who have no workings of grace in their lives. In fact, they even despise the doctrine itself.

Now here is how that Worldly Wiseman has gotten the Pilgrim off of the true way. He says, "***He to whom thou wast sent for ease, being by name Legality,***" That is, the person to whom you were sent, to get the burden off your back was named Legality. Now I'm going to tell you who he was. "***He is the son of the bond-woman which now is, and is in bondage with her children.***" He is quoting from the allegory that Paul uses in the book of Galatians. (Galatians 4:25). "***And is, in a mystery, this mount Sinai, which thou has feared will fall on thy head.***" Now he says, "I want to tell you something about it, if you are going to go to the law in order to have your burden removed, let me tell you something about what is going to happen." "***Now, if she and her children are in bondage, how canst thou expect by them to be made free?***" "If you expect to be saved by the law, how is that possible when the law is what brings a person into captivity? My friend, a thief does not seek out after the law. A thief will seek to escape from the law, because the law is what is going to bring him into captivity." And he says, "If that is what

you are going to be saved by, how do you expect to be delivered when it is that which brings you into bondage?"

"This Legality, therefore, is not able to set thee free from thy burden. No man was as yet ever rid of his burden by him; no, nor ever is like to be."

No man has ever been saved by keeping the ten commandments. If I should be speaking to anyone here tonight and your hope has been to try by the best of your ability to keep the ten commandments, and therefore, you hope one day to stand alright before God, my friend, you are under a curse. No one has ever been made right with God by attempting to keep the commandments of God, because the scriptures say, **"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."** (James 2:10). If you are going to live by God's law, then you are going to be judged by that same law. As we found out last week, that law demands perfection and you don't get to grade your own paper. God grades it, so you are under His wrath. So the pastor is explaining to Pilgrim, "Don't go to the law in order to be justified." Then he says this,

Therefore Mr. Worldly Wiseman is an alien, and Mr. Legality is a cheat; and for his son Civility, notwithstanding his simpering (or good) looks, he is but a hypocrite, and cannot help thee.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman is a foreigner. He is not one who can explain to you the true way of salvation, nor can he give you a true security. He is an alien. He is a stranger and knows nothing of grace himself. He is not a Christian, and is not right with God. Therefore, he has no wisdom that he can impart to you. Mr. Legality is a cheat.

I talked with a young man last Sunday evening after the service was over and he said, "Pastor, I have done all these things, gone to this meeting and that meeting, and I have made decision after decision." He said, "I just want you to know that I am not saved, I am as lost as I can be." So we talked with him for a couple of hours, and after we finished our discussion, he said these words, "I feel like somebody has played a trick on me. I feel like I have been cheated." These are his very words. In other words, he had gone to this meeting and made a decision, and had gone over here and made a decision, and none of it had done any good. He said, "I get a high and then go down. It is like that all the time. I'm tired of it and I recognize that I'm not right with God." This young man had been influenced by some of the advice of the wisdom of this world, and it was a cheat. My friend, this world

will not give you a true lasting peace. Jesus said, "**Peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth.**" (John 14:27). The modern presentation of much of what is called the gospel is a cheat. It won't give you something that is satisfactory and will enable you to pillow your head at night knowing you are in a right relationship with God. Mr. Legality is a cheat. Mr. Worldly Wiseman is an alien. Civility is decency, that is, good works and decent living. That looks very good on the surface doesn't it? You look over here at this church, and they say they believe in decent living. Who can have anything to say against that, Pastor? Are you against decent living? Of course not. But now notice what Bunyan says about decent living in order to make a person justified with God. He says, "**Notwithstanding all his simpering looks.**" That is, Mr. Civility is a sharp looking young man. He dresses sharp, and everything is just so so. But notwithstanding what is on the surface, "**he is a hypocrite, and he cannot help you.**"

Have you heard anyone say this?

"Well, I tell you what preacher, I'm just as good as any of those people who come to your church, and I think that if God is a God of love, and I am sure that He is, and because I don't see that I am any worse than anybody else, I am just going to depend upon my own decency and good living, and I believe in living by the Golden Rule, Preacher. 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' That is my way of living and I haven't got time for your gospel, and I haven't got time to come to your church, but I'm just going to live the best I can."

Now on the surface that sounds real good, but that is hypocritical. And that will not remove a true burden that is on an individual's back. Legality, (law keeping, or decent living) can only lead a man to a false peace, but it can never deliver a sinner from his guilt or quiet the conscious of one who has been enlightened by the Holy Spirit of God. That is, when the Spirit of God is drawing a man like He is the Pilgrim, when he approaches this system of religion, instead of settling down in that system like many do, this man sees the wrath of God and the fire of God upon that system, and it cannot give him a settled peace.

Evangelist continues:

Believe me, there is nothing in all this noise that thou hast heard of these sottish men, but a design to beguile thee of thy salvation, by turning thee from the way in which I had set thee.

He said, all of these people that you were going to come in contact with, the only thing it

has done, is that it has deceived you and taken you out of the way of salvation by the cross of Jesus Christ.

After this, Evangelist called aloud to the heavens for confirmation of what he had said; and with that there came words and fire out of the mountain under which poor Christian stood, that made the hair of his flesh stand up.

In other words, he says, "if you don't believe me, then I am going to call God to witness to your conscience right now that what I am saying is true." So about that time, the mountain representing man's duty to the law of God, was impressed upon this individual's conscience so that it literally made the hair of his flesh stand up.

The words were thus pronounced; "As many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." (Galatians 3:10)

You see, if you are going to be saved by commandment keeping, then you'd better keep it perfectly, because if you offend in one point, you are going to be charged with all of the laws that have been broken.

Now Christian looked for nothing but death, and began to cry out lamentably; even cursing the time in which he met with Mr. Worldly Wiseman; still calling himself a thousand fools for hearkening to his counsel. He also was greatly ashamed to think that this gentleman's arguments, flowing only from the flesh, should have the prevalency with him so far as to cause him to forsake the right way. This done, he applied himself again to Evangelist in words and sense as follows.

Now listen, I hope that if we learn anything out of our study thus far, we see how Evangelist is counseling this individual. ***Chr. "Sir, what think you, is there any hope?"*** Notice the Pilgrim realizes that he has been influenced by Worldly Wiseman and has gone off the way. And he says to the preacher, "Sir, is there any hope for me now?"

May I now go back, and go up to the wicket gate? Shall I not be abandoned for this, and sent back from thence ashamed? I am sorry I have hearkened to this man's counsel: but may my sin be forgiven?

Here is a man that you are not having to put words in his mouth. You are not having to say, "Now you pray this little prayer and everything will be alright." This man knows what his problem is, and he knows that he has erred in leaving the way, and yet he asked, "Is

there any hope for me?" I want you to notice again how the pastor counsels with him. **"Then said Evangelist to him, Thy sin is very great."** Oh, how different this is. If I had thought about it, I could have brought a little pamphlet to show you how the modern counseling sessions work, and how false peace is often given to individuals in those counseling sessions. I want you to notice that rather than the pastor saying, "Well, just settle down now, you really haven't done anything so bad," he pointed out the extent of the individual's sin. Is the Pastor being cruel or showing no compassion? No, my friend, here is a man who has a true love for the souls of men, and is attempting to encourage those who fall into despondency. We must be careful that we do not persuade them that their sins are few or trivial, or even to convince them that they really haven't done anything so bad. Here is a caution to you parents. When that child comes to you and starts asking about sin and has questions about God, and they begin to say, "Oh, Daddy, I have committed sin." I beg of you, don't make light of that. Don't just say, "Well, Johnny, its not so bad, just go on your way, everything will be alright." When I have visited in homes, and kids have expressed an interest in being saved, I don't know of the parents that say, "Don't pay any attention to him, my child is not bad, he is not a sinner." Conviction is the working of God bringing a sinner to the place where he can be saved. A man must see himself as lost before he will see himself in need of a Savior. Parents, you need to ask God for wisdom to be able to counsel your children and others who are inquiring about the true way of salvation. Here is why Pilgrim's sin was great. He says,

A man must see himself as lost before he will see himself in need of a Savior.

For by it thou hast committed two evils; thou hast forsaken the way that is good, to tread in forbidden paths.

No doubt this is a reference to the text in Jeremiah, **"My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."** (Jeremiah 2:13). Pilgrim, here is the great error of your way. You have left the way of true salvation through faith in Christ and you have begun trusting in your own morality and your own self-righteousness. He says that is not something that you lightly esteem because it is a great error. Why is the Evangelist doing this? He says this in order to bring the person to see that in and of himself

he cannot be the author of his own salvation. That is, he must be shown that Christ and Christ alone must save sinners. Therefore, when the man says, "*Is there any hope?*" Evangelist did not give him a false peace right then by saying, "Now, you just make a decision and everything will be alright."

Last Sunday evening I told the young man that sat in my office for a couple of hours, "Now you know that I can press you for another Roman Road decision right now, don't you? You would go through that and would say 'yes' to everything that I asked you, and then you would say the little prayer that I told you to repeat, and you would go right out and go through it all over again." He said, "Yes, but pastor I have had that done 3 or 4 times and it didn't do any good." I said, "Alright, then I am not going to press you to make another decision here tonight. You have made enough decisions already. You have decided and decided, and yet you do not know what you have decided." I said, "Let me tell you what we are going to do. We are going to go through the gospel. We will examine the person and work of Jesus Christ on your behalf and behalf of sinners. Since you have been raised in Sunday School and church, you probably know that Christ is the Son of God." He said, "Yes, I don't have any question about that." Then I said "I am going to go through what Jesus did on the cross. First, He is the Lord. He is the Sovereign. Secondly, His name is Jesus, He is the Savior. And thirdly, He is the Christ, the anointed one of God to remove sin. Christ came and He became the Prophet to teach sinners their need of Him. He became a priest to intercede on behalf of sinners, and He became a King to rule over and subdue sinners." Now I said, "Son, you can't have Jesus on the installment plan. You can't just get Him as Savior and then later on in your life you decide it might be a good thing to have Him as Lord. You either take Him in all of His offices or you can't have any of Him. What must you do to be saved? **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."** (Acts 16:31). If you want Christ as a Savior then you must bow to His Lordship, and that way you become a partaker of His work. Now then, that is all. What do you think about the gospel now? What do you feel about your condition right now?" He said, "Well, Pastor, I believe this. I believe you have put me back on the path." And I just rejoiced. I said, "That is just what we have been studying here the last few weeks." He said, "I am going to keep on the path." I said, "Alright, you go on, and at a certain time the burden will roll off, but I am not going to give you some false peace here right now and pat you on the back and say, now you are a candidate ready for baptism. You come and tell me when everything is alright between you and God." He said these words again. "I believe you have set me on the path." Now beloved, all our duty and responsibility before God with sinners is to show

them to the path that leads unto life, and we cannot make that decision for them. If we could, many of us would just make that decision for them. But all a true minister can do is point a soul to Jesus Christ and then get out of the way and let that soul deal directly with Christ in the gospel. So as the individual left, he was rejoicing. He said "I want to read some books," so we gave him some books to take with him to read. We trust that God is going to do, and has already done, a work in the individual's heart.

Now then, we have Pilgrim who is being counseled, and he has been given a hope by Evangelist who says, "**Yet will the man at the gate receive thee, for he has good-will for men.**" Oh, what a blessed thing it is going to be when we get up to the gate with Pilgrim. Perhaps our next couple of messages will deal with Good-will and the Wicket Gate.