



- And So - Starting In Paragraph 4 - We Read:

- *“Now, When He Was Got Up To The Top Of The Hill, There Came Two Men Running To Meet Him Again!”*

- Read Until - End Of Page 25, Paragraph 1:

- *“But While He Was Thus Bewailing His Unhappy Miscarriage, He Lift Up His Eyes, And Behold There Was A Very Stately Palace Before Him, The Name Of Which Was Beautiful; And It Stood Just By The Highway Side!”*

4. This Entire Episode:

- On Christian’s Pilgrimage:

- Has To Do With The Loss:

- Of That Roll:

- That Was Given To Him:

- By One Of The Three “Shining Ones” - Whom He Met:

- At The Place Of His Deliverance - Where He Saw The Cross & The Tomb!

- But - Was So Special About That Roll?

- In Our Reading For Tonight:

- Bunyan Tells Us What That Roll Was!

- P.24/P.3 - *“This Roll Was The Assurance Of His Life And Acceptance At The Desired Haven!”*

5. Christian’s Roll:

- Was The Symbol Of His Assurance!

- Assurance That He Was, In Fact, A Christian!

- Assurance That He Had Eternal Life - And:

- Assurance That He Had A Home In Heaven:

- The Celestial City!”

- Assurance:

- Is A Very Special Gift:

- From God To Those Who Belong To Him:

- Because They Believe In:

- The Lord Jesus Christ As Their Savior From Sin!

6. The Bible Teaches Us That:

- As A Christian, You Can Have Assurance Of Your Salvation!

- The Apostle John Even Tells Us:

- That It Was For This Purpose:

- He Wrote The Letter Of 1 John!

- 1 John 5:12-13 - *“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. / These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God!”*

- This Kind Of Assurance From God:

- Is A Gift & Is Very Encouraging & Reassuring:

- When You Are Faced With:

- A Hill Of Difficulty:

- Or A Hill Of Danger Or Despair!

7. But This Gift:

- Is Also A Very Fragile Gift!

- **IE:** Its Like A Gift You Might Get At Christmas - Wrapped Up In A Box That Says - *“Fragile - Handle With Care!”* - Only You Didn’t See Those Words Until After You Shook It! And When You Open It - Its Broken!

- God’s Gift Of Assurance:

- Can Quickly & Easily Get Broken - Or:

- Even Go Missing:

- When It Is Shaken Up By:

- Sin!

- This Is What Happened To Christian:

- In That Arbor!

- His Sin Of Spiritual Slothfulness:

- Caused The Roll Of His Assurance:

- To Tumble To The Ground!
- So That When He Was Stirred Up By God's Word:
- He Left It Behind In The Arbor!

8. Now - For A Time:
- It Didn't Seem Like Christian Needed That Roll!
    - Because - When He Got To The Top Of The Hill:
    - It Seemed Like:
      - He Got A Second Wind!
  - Especially When He Met Timorous & Mistrust:
    - Going The Opposite Way:
      - Because Of Another Danger In The Path:
      - Those Two Lions!

\* But - Christian Made:

**1. A Fresh Resolution!**

- A Fresh Resolution To:
  - Not Turn Back!
- He Remembered:
  - Where He Left!
    - The City Of Destruction!
- He Remembered:
  - Where He Was Going!
    - The Celestial City! And:
- He Remembered:
  - All That He Already Went Through:
    - To Get Where He Was!
- So He Made A Fresh Resolution:
  - I "Must Venture" - He Said!
    - "I Will Yet Go Forward!"
      - Because - He Believed - The Dangers *Behind* Him Were Still Greater Than The Dangers *Ahead* Of Him!
- So - We See From This:
  - That Christian Still Had:
    - Some Spiritual Strength & Courage:
      - In Spite Of His Sin In The Arbor!
  - Christian Was Still:
    - A Christian!
      - And Even This Desire To "Go Forward" & Persevere:
        - Was A Gift From The Lord!
- But - What Timorous & Mistrust Told Him:
  - About Those Lions:
    - Made Him Afraid Once Again!
      - And It Was Then - He Realized:
        - His Roll Was Missing & His Assurance Was Gone!
    - George Cheever:
      - "There Is Nothing [That] Takes Away The Courage [Of A Christian] As The Consciousness Of Guilt!"
- Has This Happened To You?
  - Have You Lost Your Assurance Of Faith:
    - Because Of Some Sin In Your Life:
      - That You Are Harboring - Or:
        - Have Not Brought To The Lord?
  - This Is Something Even:
    - King David Experienced:
      - When He Sinned Against The Lord:
        - In The Matter Of Uriah The Hittite & His Wife Bathsheba!
- In Fact - In Psalm 51 - Our Psalm For Today:
  - We Find The Roll Of *David's* Assurance Missing:

- When He Prays - 51:11-12 - “Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. / Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit!”
- David’s Sin:
  - Brought Doubt Into His Mind:
    - Instead Of Assurance!
    - Doubt Of God’s Presence With Him!
    - “Cast Me Not Away From Thy Presence!”
- David’s Sin:
  - Brought Despair Into His Heart:
    - Instead Of Assurance!
    - Despair Of God’s Power Being Removed From Him!
    - “Take Not Thy Holy Spirit From Me!”
- David’s Sin:
  - Brought Discouragement Into His Soul:
    - Instead Of Assurance!
    - Discouragement - Because The Peace Of His Salvation Was Gone!
    - “Restore Unto Me The Joy Of Thy Salvation!”
- Now - This Does Not Mean That:
  - God’s Presence & Power & Peace:
    - Had Left Him!
    - It Just Means That David’s Experience And Assurance Of Those Blessings:
      - Was Missing!
  - **IE:** It’s A Bit Like That Man Who Bought Into Bitcoin When It First Started Out! Now - It Is Worth Millions! But He Forgot The Password To His Account - And Now - He’s Locked Out!
    - Just Like His Forgetfulness Locked Him Out Of Enjoying The Benefits Of His Investment:
      - Sin Will Lock You Out Of:
        - Your Enjoyment Of The Benefits Of Salvation!
  - The Loss Of Assurance Because Of Sin:
    - Will Often Be Reflected In:
      - A Lack Of Peace - In Your Heart!
      - A Lack Of Pleasure - In Your Salvation!
      - 51:12 - “Restore Unto Me The Joy Of Thy Salvation!”
      - A Lack Of Progress - In Your Walk!
      - A Lack Of Praise - On Your Lips!
      - A Lack Of Prayer!
- Now - This Does Not Mean That:
  - All Doubt & Despair & Discouragement:
    - Is Caused By Sin!
  - Even John Bunyan Experienced A Lack Of Assurance:
    - About The Time When He Was Arrested:
      - And Put Into Prison For Preaching The Gospel Without A License!
    - George Cheever:
      - “There Was Great Gloom Upon His Soul, And The Things Of God Hidden From Him, And Neither Sun Nor Stars Appeared For Many Days!”
- So - Even Though Not All:
  - All Doubt & Despair & Discouragement:
    - Is Caused By Sin!
    - Many Times It Is!
  - And - We Need To Regularly Examine Ourselves:
    - And Keep This Prayer Continually Before The Lord:
      - Psalm 139:23-24 - “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: / And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”
- This Is What Christian Experienced!
  - And - What He Needed Most Was:

2. ***A Fresh Relief!***  
 - A Fresh Relief:

- From The Burden Of His Sin!
  - All Throughout His Trek Back To:
    - The Arbor On The Hill Of Difficulty:
      - Christian:
        - Sighed & Wept & Chided Himself:
          - For Being So Foolish!
- He Had Failed To:
  - “Watch And Be Sober!”
    - As The Lord Tells Us In:
      - 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8!
    - “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. / For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. / But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation!”
- The Grief Of Christian For His Sin:
  - Is Almost Too Hard For Us To Read!
    - Because Sentence After Sentence & Even Paragraph After Paragraph:
      - He Bemoans & Bewails his “Sinful Sleep!” - Its Gloomy!
- But - This Was Exactly Where Christian Needed To Be:
  - In Order For Him To Find:
    - His Roll Of Assurance Once Again:
      - And Find Relief For His Burden:
        - From The Lord!
- Relief & Assurance:
  - Can Be Renewed:
    - Through Personal Repentance:
      - Of Sin & Sinfulness:
        - In Your Heart & Life!
  - Ken Puls - “Repentance is The Way To Joy And Light And Renewed Hope Of Forgiveness And Life!”
    - And This Kind Of:
- Repentance Includes A Remembrance:
  - Of Your Sin Against The Lord!
    - This Doesn’t Mean That:
      - You Relive Your Sin - But That:
        - You Remember What Your Sin Was & What Your Sin Does!
  - This Means That You:
    - Take Responsibility For Your Sin!
      - You Don’t Make Excuses For It:
        - You Admit To It & Realize “The Exceeding Sinfulness” Of Your Sin!
  - David Remembers *His* Sin:
    - In Psalm 51:3 - “For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me!”
  - To Find Your Roll Of Assurance Again:
    - You Need To Remember & Admit & Acknowledge:
      - Your Sin Against God! But Also:
- Repentance Includes A Regret!
  - Christian Expresses His Regret:
    - When He Realized Just How Much:
      - Time & Effort He Wasted:
        - In Having To Return To The Arbor On The Hill!
  - He Said To Himself:
    - “How Many Steps Have I Taken In Vain!”
      - Instead Of Going Over The Path Of Difficulty Just Once:
        - Now - He Went Over It Three Times!
  - David Too Expressed Regret For His Sin:
    - In Psalm 51:4 - “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest!”
  - To Find Your Roll Of Assurance Again:
    - You Need To Not Only:
      - Express Regret & Sorrow For Your Sin:

- You Need To Feel It In Hour Heart!
- Because - As Paul Wrote:
  - In 2 Corinthians 7:10 - “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death!”
  - The Sorrow & Regret Of The World:
    - Means That You Are Sorry:
      - That You Got Caught!
  - The Sorrow & Regret Of The Lord:
    - Means That You Are Sorry:
      - For The Sin!
- But - Even Though Christian:
  - Felt Regret For:
    - Wasting So Much Time & Effort:
      - Was It Really In Vain?
  - “Thus The Experience Was Not Really In Vain, For Every Step Backward In Self-Examination Is In Reality A Forward Step!” (John Kelman)
- Repentance Includes A Request!
  - An Appeal To The Lord & His Grace:
    - For A Fresh, Though Undeserved:
      - Relief!
  - The First Thing Christian Did:
    - When He Realized He Lost His Roll:
      - Because Of His Sin On The Hill Of Difficulty:
        - He Fell “Upon His Knees” & “He Asked God Forgiveness For That His Foolish Act!”
  - And This Is What David Did:
    - All Throughout Psalm 51!
      - It’s Prayer & A Plea!
    - He Prays For God’s Cleansing & Forgiveness!
      - 51:9-10 - “Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. / Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me!”

**Conclusion:**

1. After Christian Repented Of His Sin:
  - By Remembering It & Regretting It & Requesting For It:
    - To Be Forgiven By The Lord:
      - He Was Given Fresh Relief & Assurance:
        - When The Lord Opened His Eyes:
          - Back In The Arbor:
            - To Find His Roll Of Assurance!
  - Bunyan Tells Us That:
    - He Rejoiced & Gave Things:
      - And With “Joy And Tears” – “Betook Himself Again To His Journey!”
2. We Can Be Sure That:
  - This Happened To David As Well!
    - We Can Be Sure That The Lord Answered His Prayer:
      - And Restored Unto Him The Joy Of His Salvation!
  - In Psalm 30:4-5 - David Also Wrote:
    - “Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. / For his anger [endureth but] a moment; in his favour [is] life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy [cometh] in the morning!”
3. But - Even Though:
  - For Christian & For David:
    - Their Roll Of Assurance Was Restored To Them:
      - They Both Still Experienced Some Consequences For Their Sins!
  - In Our Story:
    - Christian Still Had To Walk In The Dark:
      - When The “Sun Went Down!”

- And It Caused Him To Remember:
    - The “Vanity Of His Sleeping” Even More!
  - So - Even Though Your Sin:
    - May Be Forgiven:
      - It Is Still Hard:
        - To Forget!
  - And - Even Though You May Be Ready:
    - For The Dangers That Lie Ahead:
      - Like Those Lions:
        - You May Still Feel Regret:
          - For The Sins Of Your Past!
4. But - Remember!
- When You Repent Of Your Sin:
    - The Acts Of Remembrance & Regret:
      - Will Not Bring Relief:
        - By Themselves!
  - Relief & Assurance:
    - Will Only Come:
      - When You Look Again & Afresh:
        - To Your Savior!
          - The One Who Paid The Price:
            - For The Very Sin:
              - That Caused You To Doubt!
5. And What Does The Lord Provide Next?
- As We Will See Next Week:
    - God Provides A Place Of “Relief And Security For Pilgrims!”
      - A Place That Is Right In The Middle Of:
        - The Darkness & The Dangers:
          - Of The Night!”
  - God Leads His People To:
    - His “Palace Beautiful!”

***Grace Baptist Church***  
***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***  
***4245 North 200 West***  
***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***  
***317-326-2362***  
***www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace***  
***www.growatgrace.org***  
***pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***