

***“The Pilgrims Progress”***  
***“Lighten My Eyes”***  
***(Psalm 13:3)***

**Introduction:**

1. Tonight - We Are Going To Have:
  - Our Shortest Reading:
    - In Our Continuing Series:
      - Through The Pilgrims Progress!
  - But - The Main Reason For This:
    - Is Because - In Two Weeks:
      - We Are Going To Have:
        - Our Longest Reading:
          - In Our Series - And:
            - I Just Didn't Want To Make It Any Longer!
  - Sometimes:
    - Its Difficult To Divide Things Up:
      - In A Story That:
        - Is Meant To Be Read:
          - Altogether - From One Event:
            - Right To Another!
2. But - Even Though Our Reading Tonight:
  - Will Be Short:
    - I Think It Will Still Be, Once Again:
      - Very Instructive:
        - In Our Own Quest:
          - To The Celestial City!
  - So - Let's Turn Back In Our Books To:
    - *Page 85, Paragraph 6:*
      - Where We Find Our Pilgrims:
        - Facing Yet Another Challenge & Temptation:
          - In Their Walk Of Faith!
      - But - Although Its New:
        - It Seems As If:
          - We've All Been Here Before!
      - Bunyan Begins Again:
        - *“I saw then in my dream, that they went till they came into a certain country, whose air naturally tended to make one drowsy, if he came a stranger into it!”*
  - Read Through:
    - *Page 86, Paragraph 1:*
      - *“Saints' fellowship, if it be manag'd well, Keeps them awake, and that in spite of hell!”*
3. I Told You It Was Short!
  - But - Even Though This Place:
    - Called “The Enchanted Ground” Is New:
      - It Sure Sounded Familiar, Didn't It?
  - But This Time - I Think:
    - Christian Finally Learned His Lesson About Falling Asleep:
      - Having Done So Himself:
        - On A Couple Of Occasions!
  - But - This Was A Lesson:
    - The Younger Hopeful:
      - Still Needed To Learn!
        - So - It Was A Good Thing:
          - That Christian Was There To Help Him Through This Sleepy Land!
    - Of Course - Hopeful Himself Recognized This:
      - When He Referred To:
        - Ecclesiastes 4:9 - “Two Are Better Than One!”
4. But Why Does Bunyan:

- Refer To Sleep So Many Times:
  - In The Pilgrims Progress?
    - Well - Do We Really Even Have To Answer The Question?
      - Its Because - Not Only:
        - Did Bunyan Know:
          - His Own Nature!
        - He Knows:
          - Human Nature!
          - Our Nature!
- And So - Even Though:
  - This Is Familiar Territory:
    - Perhaps This Will Be The Time:
      - We Really Take Heed To:
        - The Lord's Words - When He Tells Us: "Watch And Pray, That Ye Enter Not Into Temptation: The Spirit Indeed Is Willing, But The Flesh Is Weak!" (Matthew 26:41)

5. So Tonight - We Are Going To Look At:

- Three Things Bunyan Wants Us To:
  - Understand About:
    - The Enchanted Ground:
      - All Of Us Either:
        - Are Walking On Or Will Walk On Some Day!

\* First - We Need To Understand:

**1. *The Depiction Of Enchanted Ground:***

- I Like How Ken Puls Described It:
  - In His Online Commentary On The Pilgrims Progress:
    - "The Enchanted Ground Represents Dulness Brought About By Spiritual Complacency And Fatigue!"
      - And I Think He Has It About Right!
  - Because - Those Really Are The Only Two Conditions:
    - That Will Tempt Us To Spiritual Dulness:
      - In Our Christian Walk:
        - When We Face Them!
    - And - Both Of These Conditions:
      - Are Addressed In Scripture!
  - The First Condition Is Spiritual Complacency!
    - And Spiritual Complacency:
      - Is Spiritual Laziness:
        - In The Means Of Grace:
          - That God Has Given You:
            - To Cultivate Your Faith!
  - Even As Peter Tells Us To Do:
    - In 2 Peter 1:5-10 - "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; / And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; / And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. / For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!"
      - But - What If You Don't Do These Things? What If You Aren't Doing These Things?
    - Peter Continues In 1:9-10 - "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins!"
      - So - What Are We To Do? 1:10 - "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall!"
  - Its Easy To Become Spiritually Complacent:
    - When We Experience Life:
      - As An "Enchanted Ground!"
    - Though Its Not Fully Described For Us:
      - I Can Imagine It Being:

- A Very Easy-Going Path On A Day That Is Calm, Clear, & Cool!
  - Much Like It Was Yesterday!
- And It - As Bunyan Puts It:
  - “Naturally Tends To Make One Drowsy!”
- John Kelman Describes It As:
  - Those Times In Life When:
    - “Its Not Difficult Enough To Be A Christian!”
- Do You See This Condition:
  - In Our Own Heart & Life?
    - If So - Take Heed! And:
      - “Give Diligence!”
- The Second Condition Is Spiritual Fatigue!
  - And This Is The Condition:
    - That Hopeful Thought He Had:
      - When He Told Christian That:
        - “Sleep Is Sweet To The Laboring Man!”
    - And - As He Was Referring To:
      - Ecclesiastes 5:12 - He Was Right!
  - And One Of The Great Promises:
    - We Have As Christians Is Rest!
      - Even As We Are Told In:
        - Hebrews 4:10 - “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God!”
      - But - That Rest:
        - Is Not Meant:
          - For Here & For Now!
    - Because - We Are Then Told:
      - In 4:11 - “Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief!”
- So - Sometimes:
  - The Claim Of Fatigue:
    - Can Be But An Excuse:
      - For Complacency!
  - And It Is Not Yet Time For Our Spiritual Rest!
    - Listen To These Challenging Words - Again:
      - From Ken Puls - “When life is comfortable and religion becomes rote, we can grow complacent and careless in our walk with God. We can settle in and grow too comfortable in our faith. Our worship loses its wonder and becomes too routine. We go to church week after week, hearing the same old Sunday School lessons, singing the same old songs, hearing the same preacher saying the same things. And we begin to think: I've heard that before—and we don't listen as intently—Didn't we sing this hymn just last week?—and we stop paying attention to the words. We grow too familiar with the content and form of worship—and we tune out. Our minds wander and spiritual sleep overtakes us. We come week after week to feed on God's Word but fail to “taste and see that the Lord is good!”
  - Understand The True Nature:
    - Of The Enchanted Ground:
      - Of This World In Which We Live!
        - But Then - Second - Understand:

## 2. ***The Danger Of Enchanted Ground!***

- Spiritual Sleep Is A Dangerous Condition:
  - For You To Be In!
    - Daily Your Prayer Needs To Be:
      - Psalm 13:3 - “Consider [and] hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the [sleep of] death!”
        - “O Lord My God, Lighten My Eyes!”
  - **IE:** Have You Ever Been So Tired & Sleepy That Your Eyes Felt Heavy Like Lead? And You Needed Something Or Someone To Hold Them Open For You? Last Week - By The End Of The Night - With Our

Visit From Our Friends - I Felt That Way! I Enjoyed The Time & Wanted It To Continue, But My Eyes Were Telling Another Story, I'm Sure!

- The Old English Preacher, Charles Spurgeon:

- In His Own Message On The Enchanted Ground Told His Congregation About:

- Three Dangers - That I Think Are Still Relevant & Timely For Us Today!

- The Three Dangers Are:

- Insensitivity, Inaction & Insecurity!

- Listen To These Words:

- From Yesteryear!

- "Let Me Picture To You The State Of A Sleeping Christian!"

- "When A Man Is Asleep, He Is Insensible!"

- "The world moves on, and he knows nothing about it. The watchman calls out beneath his window, but he hears him not. A fire is raging in a neighboring street, or his neighbor's house is burned to ashes; but he is asleep, and is unaware of the calamity. Persons are sick in the house where he lives, but he is not awakened; they may die, yet he weeps not for them. A revolution may be in progress in the streets of his city; a king may be losing his crown; but he that is asleep shares not in the turmoil of politics. A volcano may burst somewhere near him, and he may be in imminent peril; but he knows no fear; he is sound asleep, he is unconscious.

- Slumbering Christian, behold a picture of your condition. You used to sigh once; you would give a world if you could sigh now. You used to groan once; a groan now would be worth a golden star if you could buy it. Once, the thought of restoring a sinner from the error of his ways would have made you start from your bed at midnight, and you would have rushed through the cold air to help to rescue a sinner. Now, talk to you about perishing multitudes, and you hear it as an old, old tale!"

- "Again" - Spurgeon Says - "Sleep Is A State Of Inaction!"

- "No daily bread is earned by him that sleepeth. The man who is stretched upon his couch neither writeth books, nor tilleth the ground, nor plougheth the sea, nor doeth aught else. His pulse beateth, so he is alive; but he is practically dead as to activity!"

- "Alas, beloved! this is the state of many of you. How many Christians are inactive! Once, it was their delight to instruct the young in the Sunday School; but that is given up. Once, they attended the prayer-meeting, but they do not go there now. Once, they would be hewers of woods and drawers of water; but, alas! they are asleep now. God wake them up, and send them more earnest and praying men!"

- And Then - Spurgeon Adds - "The Man Who Is Asleep Is Also In A State Of Insecurity!"

- "The murderer smites him that sleeps; the midnight robber plunders the house of him that rests on his pillow. Remember? Jael smote a sleeping Sisera. Abishai took away the spear from the holster of a slumbering Saul. A sleeping Eutychus fell from the third loft, and was taken up dead. A sleeping Samson was shorn of his locks, and the Philistines were upon him. Sleeping men are ever in danger; they cannot ward off the blow of the enemy, nor strike in their own defense!"

- Christian, if you are sleeping, you are in danger. Your life, I know, can never be taken from you, for it is hid with Christ in God. But, oh! You may lose your spear from your holster; you may lose much of your faith; and your cruse of water may be stolen by the prowling thief. You little knowest your danger. Awake, thou slumberer!"

- These Words Of Spurgeon Challenged Me!

- May They Challenge You!

- And Wake You Up!

- Because These Are The Dangers:

- Of Falling Asleep:

- In Enchanted Ground!

- Insensitivity!

- Inactivity!

- Insecurity!

- Do You Sense Any Of These:

- In Your Heart & Life Today?

- Then - In The Words Of:

- Romans 13:11 - "It Is High Time To Awake Out Of Sleep!"

- Charles Spurgeon Added These Words:

- And May We Not Forget Them:

- You Will Never Catch The Devil Asleep; Let Not The Devil Catch You Asleep!

- Understand The Dangers Of Enchanted Ground!

- But Then - Third - Understand:

3. ***The Defeat Of Enchanted Ground:***

- There Is Hope & There Is Help:

- For Sleepy Christians:

- As We Walk Through:

- The Enchanted Ground Of This World!

- And Bunyan Provides Three Ways:

- To Overcome The Temptation To Just Give Up In Your Race - Even  
When The End Is In Sight!

- So - To Defeat The Enchanted Ground:

- Christian Pilgrims - Like Christian & Hopeful:

- Need To:

- Walk In Togetherness!

- Hopeful Admitted His Own Weakness:

- And Need For Fellowship:

- When He Said To Christian:

- "Had I Been Here Alone, I Had By Sleeping Run The Danger Of Death! I See  
It Is True That The Wise Man Saith, "Two Are Better Than One!" (Ecclesiastes  
4:9)

- We Need Each Other:

- To Help Each Other:

- Fight Off The Spiritual Dulness & Drowsiness:

- That Can Quickly & Quietly Set In! But Then:

- To Defeat The Enchanted Ground, We Also Need To:

- Walk In Truth!

- One Of The Lessons Christian Learned:

- Was To Heed The Warnings:

- Of The Scripture - And:

- Of Those Shepherds:

- Who Told Them About The Enchanted Ground:

- They Were Now In!

- If You Remember:

- They Were Ensnared By The Flatterer:

- Because They Forgot To Read:

- The Instructions Given To Them:

- By The Shepherds!

- This Time:

- Christian Would Not Make:

- The Same Mistake!

- And We Must Not Either!

- A Dusty Bible:

- Will Create Drowsy Christians!

- Keep Walking In The Truth!

- To Defeat The Enchanted Ground, We Also Need To:

- Walk In Testimony!

- And Have Good & Godly Conversations:

- With Each Other!

- Even As Christian & Hopeful Decided:

- That The Best Way To Make It Through The Enchanted Ground:

- Was To "Fall Into Good Discourse!"

- About What?

- About - Especially:

- "Where God Began With Us!"

- Our Personal Testimonies:

- About God & His Grace & Goodness To Sinners Like Us!

**Conclusion:**

1. And This Leads Us To Our Longest Reading:
  - In A Couple Of Weeks:
    - Because - I Don't Want To Interrupt:
    - The Testimony That We Hear:
      - From Hopeful - Over The Next Several Pages In The Story!
2. But - As We Close:
  - Consider Your Own Condition Tonight!
    - Where Are You:
      - In This Enchanted Ground?
        - Though The Temptation Will Be Strong:
          - To Grow Weary In Well Doing:
            - Remember That "In Due Season We Shall Reap, If We Faint Not!"
    - And - Not Only Will You Reap:
      - You Will Also Enjoy:
        - Eternal Rest For Your Soul!
3. And - In The Mean Time:
  - Remember That One Of The Best Ways:
    - For You To Stay Awake:
      - Is To Walk & Talk:
        - With Others Who Are Facing:
          - The Same Temptation To Sleep As You Are!
    - Close With These Final Words Of Spurgeon:
      - "Two Christians Talking Together Of The Ways Of The Lord Will Go Much Faster To Heaven Than One Alone! And When A Whole Church Unites In Speaking Of The Lord's Loving Kindness, Verily, Beloved, There Is No Way Like That Of Keeping Themselves Awake!"

\* Additional Quotes:

\* "O Christian, beware of sleeping on this enchanted ground! When all things go easy, smooth, and well, we are prone to grow drowsy in soul. How many are the calls in the Word against spiritual slumber! and yet how many professors, through the enchanting air of this world, are fallen into the deep sleep of formality! Be warned by them to cry to thy Lord to keep thee awake to righteousness, and vigorous in the ways of thy Lord!" (William Mason)

\* "Now, there is a portion of the road which leadeth from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City, which has in it, perhaps, more dangers than any other part of the way. It doth not abound with lions; there are no dragons in it; it hath no dark woods, and no deep pit-falls; yet more seeming pilgrims have been destroyed in that portion of the road than anywhere else; and not even Doubting Castle, with all its hosts of bones, can show so many who have been slain there. It is the part of the road called The Enchanted Ground!" (Spurgeon)

\* "One of the most likely places for us to sleep in is when we get near our journey's end." (Spurgeon)

\* "Spiritual complacency is not the only thing that lulls us to sleep. Spiritual fatigue does so as well. Living as a Christian in a world filled with sin is hard. Rising day after day, fighting the same old battles against sin, can be wearisome. It is easy to wonder at times—wouldn't it be nice if I just didn't have to fight anymore? Satan tempts us to give up the fight of faith. He tries to allure us away from what is true when we are weak and weary." (Ken Puls)

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