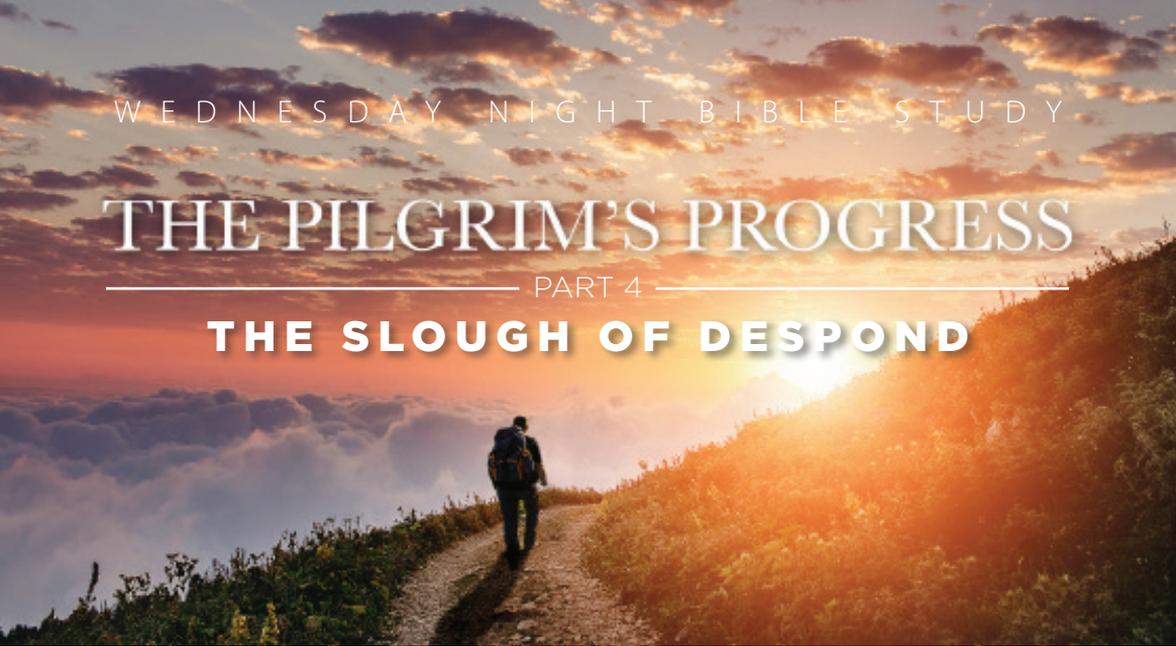


# THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

PART 4

## THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND



Reading: *Psalm 84:5 & Psalm 40:1 - 3*

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### Introduction

- You need to see yourself in Christian.
- Christian is not saved yet when the curtain lifts but he has been '*awakened*' to his need of Christ.
- He's undergoing '*conviction*' of sin.
- Evangelist points him in the direction of the '*wicket-gate*' (Christ).
- Two neighbours, '*Obstinate*' and '*Pliable*' go after him to bring him back.
- New or would be Christians often have to face this pair.
- The pilgrim must be determined to go on.

### 1 Pliable

- Obstinate returns home but Pliable decides to go with Christian.
- Pliable means '*easily influenced*'.
- He's a phoney pilgrim.
- He's not journeying like Christian to have his sin dealt with.
- Notice the absence of a burden on the back of Pliable.

- Thousands of Pliable's go through the door of our churches.
- A small trial, discouragement or unhappy about something Jesus says and like Obstinate they too return.
- The rich young ruler who came running to Jesus in [Mark 10] is a '*Pliable*'.

## 2 Heavenly Things

- On the journey Christian talks to Pliable about the place they are going too (heaven).
- He tells him about it from what he has read in his book.
- Heaven, is our true home. In it -
  - An incorruptible inheritance awaits us [1 Peter 1:4].
  - This kingdom/city will be endless.
  - The citizens there experience eternal life.
  - They are well clothed: with incorruption and immortality. [1 Corinthians 15:53].
  - They will wear crowns [2 Timothy 4:8].
  - There will be no more sorrow or pain, tears or sin. [Revelation 21:4].
  - The martyrs will be there.

## 3 The Slough Of Despond

- Slough (a bog or swamp) of Despond (to loose heart/hope, to become discouraged, to despair).
- The place where discouraging fears attack the pilgrim.
- 'What if Jesus will not receive me? What if I have sinned too much?'
- What if I can't '*keep* it?'
- There are steps out of the Slough which are the promises of God. [Psalm 40:1 - 3].
- Consider the following steps: [John 6:37], [Isaiah 1:18], [John 10:28], [Jude vs 24] and [John 10:28].
- The promises of God ensure good mental health for the pilgrim.

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### Teaching Biblically · Thinking Biblically · Living Biblically

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