The Pilgrim’s Progress

Introduction
WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID
“Few books I have read have moved me and inspired me as much as *The Pilgrim’s Progress*.”
“How did a man with no book-learning at all come to write by far the best-written religious book in the English language?
“Besides the Bible, perhaps the greatest book ever written was The Pilgrim’s Progress... The book, published over three hundred years ago, has touched lives literally around the globe. Who can imagine the multiple millions of copies, the numerous translations that have been released? Everywhere I turn I find others who, like me, have worn
out more than one copy and still find delight in returning to the volume for personal enrichment. I reserve this endorsement for very few books, but I would say without hesitation that it is a creative masterpiece where biblical truth is made relevant for any generation.”

Chuck Swindoll, The Grace Awakening
“Next to the Bible, the book I value most is John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*. I believe I have read it through at least a hundred times. It is a volume of which I never seem to tire; and the secret of its freshness is that it is so largely compiled from the Scriptures. It is really Biblical teaching put into the form of a simple yet very striking allegory.”
“Nowhere, perhaps, except in Homer, is there such a perfect description by the use of merely plain words...The Elstow tinker produced an original thing, if an original thing was ever produced.”
“When Augustine and Calvin and Edwards have ceased to be recognized as authorities, the theology they taught, changed from the abstract to the concrete, will be studied and accepted in the simple adventures of Christian and his family, in the deeds of Faithful and the experience of Hopeful, and in the wonderful sights of the Delectable Mountains.”
John P. Gulliver, D.D.

“No man can thoroughly understand the *Pilgrim’s Progress* without becoming an accomplished theologian.”
“He who is nearest to the Bible is nearest to *The Pilgrim’s Progress* in its comprehensive Christ-like spirit. He belongs to that region where men are neither of Paul, nor Apollos, nor Cephas, but of Christ. And as there is no nationality in that Christ who on His human side is the universal man, so he whose work comes nearest to Christ comes nearest to the universal heart. This is why
Dr. John Brown

*The Pilgrim’s Progress* has found its way to almost every people under heaven.”

*Dr. John Brown was Minister of the Church at Bunyan Meeting in Bedford, England from 1864 to 1903.*
“The Pilgrim’s Progress is the only book of its kind that possesses a strong human interest, that while other allegories only amuse the fancy, this has been read by thousands with tears.”
“The name of John Bunyan will stand in the annals of literature as long as time remains and men are literate.”
Rev. J.C. Carlile

“John Bunyan remains one of the few supreme master craftsmen of English speech. He took the common clay of our language and shaped it into a thing of beauty and a joy forever. His sentences were as clear as crystals, beautiful as pearls, and vital as blood... No anthology of English prose or literature of the world is adequate unless it gives a place to the author of *The Pilgrim’s Progress* and *The Holy War*...
Tribute has been paid to Bunyan’s genius; yet in an age that seldom acknowledges the greatness and grandeur of the past, and too often professes to find nothing in its ancestry but an excuse for the present-day vices, Bunyan may again be reclaimed. He was ever Valiant for the Truth, and never Ready to Halt in the quest for the Palace Beautiful. No Mr. Facing-both-ways was he, but a Greatheart defending the City of
Mansoul, a moral leader as well as a master weaver of words; a novelist surprisingly subtle in character study, rich in incident, and prodigal in his plots. In his best work he ranks with the greatest writers the world has known. Bunyan’s crown will not tarnish. His fame will not fade.”

Address at the rededication of John Bunyan’s tomb in Bunhill Fields, November 10, 1922.
“John Bunyan was a man of low birth, low occupation, and, up till his conversion, of low habits; but he was by nature a man of genius, and by grace a man of God, and he would have made – he was, in fact – a most effective apostle.”
WHY READ *PILGRIM’S PROGRESS*?
Fifteen Benefits

1. Bunyan provides a true biblical picture of the Christian life, from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City.

2. The many metaphors Bunyan employs illustrate important biblical truths which are important for us as we seek to live out the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Fifteen Benefits

3. We comprehend the true nature of things through our imaginations as well as through propositional truth.

4. The amazing clarity of Bunyan’s work exposes false theologies and enables us to discern truth from error.

5. Great wisdom and practical insight is given to us to help us on our way to the Celestial City.
Fifteen Benefits

6. The various people we meet in Bunyan’s allegory are representative of the people we meet throughout our lives. A careful study of Bunyan’s characters will provide us with the tools we need to relate to others in a God-honoring way.

7. Christian’s successes and failures provide encouragement and warnings to us.
Fifteen Benefits

8. The story reminds us that we are pilgrim’s in this world and that our citizenship is awaiting us in heaven.
9. We are reminded that our only hope for salvation is through the blood of Christ and His finished work for us on the cross.
10. We are encouraged when we learn that Bunyan avoids legalism and perfectionism and always points us to the gospel.
11. We are given a new “language” by which we may communicate with one another for our delight and benefit.

12. Through his brilliant dialogues, Bunyan helps us understand that all who profess Christ are not true believers – that there are counterfeit pilgrims.

13. The story teaches us to persevere through trials and difficulties.
Fifteen Benefits

14. We are reminded that salvation is not an event or a decision, but a lifelong journey.
15. Bunyan’s classic will lead us to worship God in spirit and in truth and move us to serve Him “so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to His summons and service” (Os Guinness).
Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.
That word above all earthly pow’rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Thru Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also,
The body they may kill;
God’s truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.
Amazing Grace

Thru many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.