The Pilgrim’s Progress

Chapter 2: Help and Worldly Wiseman, Part 2
In our last lecture, we encountered Help, who offered his hand to Christian and pulled him out of the Slough of Despond. Once Christian’s feet were on solid ground, Help encouraged him to continue on his way to the wicket-gate.
Christian Meets Worldly Wiseman

“Now as Christian was walking all alone, he saw someone in the distance coming toward him across the field. They just happened to meet where their paths crossed. The gentleman’s name that met him was Mr. Worldly Wiseman. He lived in the town of Carnal Policy, a great town near the City of Destruction, Christian’s home-town. This man, then, meeting with Christian, knew something about him, for
Christian Meets Worldly Wiseman

Christian’s going away from the City of Destruction was well known, not only in the town where he lived, but also in other places.”
Bio of Worldly Wiseman

• He lived in the town of *Carnal Policy*. Carnal means *not spiritual, fleshly*. “I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still *fleshly* (carnal)” (I Cor. 3:2-3). “For the mind set on the *flesh* is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace; because the mind set on the *flesh* is hostile toward God” (Rom. 8:6-7).
Bio of Worldly Wiseman

• He, like many others, had some knowledge of Christian’s leaving the City of Destruction; it was well-known throughout the region.
• He had been observing Christian’s difficulties in the Slough of Despond and used the opportunity to begin a conversation with him.
• “How are you, my friend? Where are you going? You look so burdened!”
• **Reminds** Christian of his family he left behind (plays with his emotions).

• **Sympathizes** with Christian regarding his burden (appeals to his longing for peace and the desired blessings of God).

• **Discovers** Christian’s “Trojan Horse” – his great desire to be rid of his burden.

• **Alienates** Christian from Evangelist’s counsel.
Worldly Wiseman’s Strategy

• **Incites fear** in Christian by suggesting a number of difficulties that await him if he continues on his current path.

• **Denigrates** the Bible.

• **Utilizes** the *ad hominem* argument against Christian (“...as it has happened to other weak men...”)

• **Questions** the way Christian is going and offers his own, better solution.
Christian: “Reveal Your Secret”

- Go to the village of Morality.
- Encounter a gentleman named Legality.
- Legality’s son, Civility, can help you if he is not at home.
- Send for your wife and children and live in the village.
- Worldly Wiseman’s promise: “You will live a happy life.”
First, he turned “out of his way” – he left the path which would have taken him to the light and to the wicket-gate.

He began his journey toward the hill (Mt. Sinai), where he witnessed flashes of fire and broke out in a sweat.

He became frightened and his burden felt heavier.
“On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of
a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up” (Exodus 19:16-20).
The Threefold Use of the Law

1. To be a tutor (child-conductor) or mirror. It reflects the perfect righteousness of God and reveals much about the character and nature of God. Illuminating our sin, it also acts as a severe school master who drives us to Christ and His grace. “Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith” (Gal. 3:24).
The Threefold Use of the Law

“What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, ‘You shall not covet’” (Rom. 7:7).
The Threefold Use of the Law

2. **To restrain sin and evil (civil law).** The law restrains those who are unjust and protects the righteous from evil. “The law allows for a limited measure of justice on this earth, until the last judgment is realized” (R.C. Sproul). God instituted governments, parents, laws, restrictions, and civil ordinances for this purpose.
3. **To reveal what is pleasing to God.** John writes, “He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him” (14:21). The highest function of the law is to serve as an instrument for the people of God to give him honor and glory.
Is the Law Evil?

• “The law of the Lord is **perfect**, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is **sure**, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are **right**, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is **pure**, enlightening the eyes” (Psalm 19:7-8).

• “So then, the Law is **holy**, and the commandment is **holy** and **righteous** and **good**” (Romans 7:12).
“Mr. Worldly Wiseman, and all his connections, dislike the atonement; the cross of Christ is foolishness unto them, except to make signs with it, to be seen of men. In all likelihood, Mr. Legality’s own chapel, in that town of Morality, had a cross on the top of it; for so do men who deny the atonement, cover up that denial by mingling the atonement and morality together, which answers the same purpose as denying it
utterly; for if a man seeks to get rid of his burden by morality in part, he does not rest on the atonement at all. And just so, the men who hate the great truth of justification by faith, because that cuts off all worldly pride, and kills sin and self utterly, will often not avow that hatred plainly, but say that men must be justified by faith and works together; whereas, it is the blood of Christ alone, and no works,
though a man had a universe full of them to present to God, that can cleanse the soul from sin.”

- G.B. Cheever
“Either Christ must live and the Law perish, or the Law remains and Christ must perish. Christ and the Law cannot dwell side by side in the conscience. It is either grace or law. To muddle the two is to eliminate the Gospel of Christ entirely.”
Bewitched!

“You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? This is the only thing I want to find out from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?” (Gal. 3:1-2).
“Although I am a doctor of divinity, and have preached Christ and fought His battles for a long time, I know from personal experience how difficult it is to hold fast to the truth. I cannot always shake off Satan. I cannot always apprehend Christ as the Scriptures portray Him. Sometimes the devil distorts Christ to my vision. But thanks be to God, who keeps us in His Word, in faith, and in prayer.”
Return to the Law? How Serious?

• Paul argues that those who return to the Law for their justification are bewitched – deceived. And “a deceived person doesn’t know they are deceived because they are deceived” (G.K. Chesterton).

• They may have strayed so far from the truth that they may never return to the truth.

• The Law never produces true conversion.
Return to the Law? How Serious?

• They have disobeyed the truth of Christ.
• They crucify Christ again and put him to open shame.
• Those who endeavor to be justified by their own works are presumptuous.
• The Law does not bring on the Holy Spirit (the Law and the Gospel are contrary ideas).
• The Gospel brings donations; the Law demands, and they are impossible (Luther).
“We want it understood that we do not reject the Law as our opponents claim. On the contrary, we uphold the Law. We say the Law is good if it is used for the purposes for which it was designed, to check civil transgression, and to magnify spiritual transgressions. The Law is also a light like the Gospel. But instead of revealing the grace of God, righteousness, and life, the Law brings sin, death, and the wrath of
Martin Luther

God to light. This is the business of the Law, and here the business of the Law ends, and should go no further. The business of the Gospel, on the other hand, is to quicken, to comfort, to raise the fallen. The Gospel carries the news that God for Christ’s sake is merciful to the most unworthy sinners, if they will only believe that Christ by His death has delivered them from sin and everlasting death unto grace, forgiveness, and everlasting life.”
The Greatest Man

“The greatest man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution; who resists the sorest temptations from within and without; who bears the heaviest burdens cheerfully; who is calmest in storms, and most fearless under menace and frowns; and whose reliance on truth, on virtue, and on God, is most unfaltering.”

- William E. Channing