Chapter Three

Evangelist and Goodwill

Now Christian saw Evangelist coming to meet him. The very sight of him caused Christian to be filled with shame. As Evangelist came nearer and nearer, he approached Christian, looked at him with a severe and dreadful countenance, and began to reason with him.

Evan. “What are you doing here, Christian?” he said. When he heard those words, he did not know what to say. He stood speechless before him. Then Evangelist added, “Are you not the man I found crying outside the walls of the City of Destruction?”

Chr. “Yes, sir. I am the man.”

Evan. “Didn’t I give you directions to the little Wicket-gate?”

Chr. “Yes, sir,” said Christian.

Evan. “How is it, then, that you have so quickly turned aside? You are now off the path that I showed you.”

Chr. “I met a gentleman after I got out of the Slough of Despond. He persuaded me to visit a man in the village ahead of me who would take away my burden.”

Evan. “Who was he?”

Chr. “He looked like a gentleman, and he spoke for some time with me. After a while, he persuaded me and I gave in. So I came here. But when I saw this hill and how it hangs over the path, I suddenly stood still. I was afraid it would fall on me.”

Evan. “What did this gentleman say to you?”

Chr. “He asked me where I was going and I told him.”

Evan. “What did he say after that?”

Chr. “He asked me if I had a family, and I told him I did. But I told him I was so weighed down with this burden on my back, that I could not enjoy them like I used to.”

Evan. “Then what did he say?”

Chr. “He encouraged me to get rid of my burden as quickly as possible. I told him it was ease that I was seeking. I also informed him that I was going to the gate to receive further instructions
about how I could get to the place of deliverance. But he said he would show me a better and
shorter way, and that it would not have as many difficulties, sir, as the way you showed me. He
directed me to a gentleman’s house and told me that he had the skills to remove this burden. I
believed him, left the path you showed me, and followed his directions so I could get rid of my
burden sooner. But when I came to this place and saw things as they really were, I stopped
because I sensed there was danger and I was afraid. Now I do not know what to do.”

Evan. Then Evangelist said, “Stand still a minute so I can show you the words of God.” So he
stood still and trembled. Then Evangelist said, “See that you do not refuse him who speaks. If
they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if
we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?”1 He continued, “But my righteous one will
live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.”2 Then Evangelist said,
“You are the man who is running into this misery. You have begun to reject the counsel of the
Most High and to draw back your foot from the way of peace. You risked losing your soul.”

Then Christian fell down at his feet as dead, crying, “Woe is me, for I am undone!”3 Then
Evangelist took him by the right hand, saying, “Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men;
stop doubting and believe.”4 Then Christian began to be revived a little and stood up trembling,
as he did at first, before Evangelist.

Then Evangelist continued, saying, “Take to heart the things that I am about to tell you. I will
now show you who it was that deceived you and the one to whom he sent you. The man that met
you is Worldly Wiseman, and he is rightly named, partly because he loves only the doctrine of
this world5 (therefore he always goes to church in the town of Morality), and partly because that
doctrine keeps him from the cross.”6 Since he is carnal, he tries to prevent people from traveling
on the right path. Now there are three things in this man’s counsel that you must absolutely hate:

1. His turning you out of the way.
2. His intense efforts to make you despise the cross.

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1 “See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them
on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?” (Hebrews 12:25).
2 “But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him” (Hebrews 10:38).
3 “‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and
my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty’” (Isaiah 6:5).
4 “And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be
forgiven” (Matthew 12:31).
5 “I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the
Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin” (Mark 3:28-29).
6 “They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them” (I
John 4:5).
7 “Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only
reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ” (Galatians 6:12).
3. His pointing you to the road that leads to death.

“First, you must despise what he did in turning you away from the right road, as well as the fact that you consented to do it. You have rejected the counsel of God for the sake of the counsel of a Worldly Wiseman. The Lord says, ‘Make every effort to enter through the narrow door,’7 the gate to which I sent you, for ‘small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.’8 This wicked man has turned you from the little Wicket-gate and from the Way, and in doing so almost brought you to destruction. Despise, therefore, that he turned you away from the right road; and abhor yourself for listening to him.

“Secondly, you must despise his intense efforts to make the cross repulsive to you. You must prefer it to all the treasures in Egypt.9 Besides, the King of Glory has told you that he who will save his life will lose it; and he who comes after him, and does not hate his father, and mother, and wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yea, even his own life, cannot be His disciple.10 I say, therefore, you must despise his persuading you that if you followed the right way it would cause your death. In reality, the truth has said that without dying to self, you cannot have eternal life.

“Thirdly, you must hate that he placed your feet in the way that leads to death. And for this, you must consider the one to whom he sent you. Also consider how unable that person was to deliver you from your burden.

“The one to whom you were sent for relief, the one named Legality, is the son of the bondwoman who is in bondage along with her children.11 He is Mount Sinai. That is what you feared would

7 “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to” (Luke 13:24).

8 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

9 “He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward” (Hebrews 11:25-26).

10 “Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me’” (Mark 8:34).

11 “Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise. These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our
fall on your head. Now if the bondwoman and her children are in bondage, how can you expect them to make you free? This Legality, therefore, is not able to set you free from your burden. He has never relieved any man of his burden, nor will he ever do so in the future. You cannot be justified by the works of the Law. No man who is alive can be relieved of his burden by doing the works of the Law. Therefore, Mr. Worldly Wiseman is an alien (not in God’s family) and Mr. Legality is a fraud. His son, Civility, regardless of his silly smirks, is nothing but a hypocrite, and cannot help you. Believe me, there is nothing in all this noise that you have heard from this foolish man, but a scheme to defraud you of your salvation. They are only trying to turn you from the way that I had shown you.” After this, Evangelist called to the heavens for confirmation of what he had said. As soon as he had spoken, words and fire came out of the mountain under which poor Christian stood, making the hair on his body stand up. These words were pronounced, “All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’”

Now Christian looked for nothing but death and, with a broken heart, began to cry out. He even cursed the time he spent with Mr. Worldly Wiseman, while calling himself a thousand fools for listening to his counsel. He was also greatly ashamed to think that this gentleman’s arguments, coming from his fleshly nature, could have such power with him so as to cause him to abandon the right way. After this, he listened attentively to Evangelist’s words and wisdom once again.

**Chr.** “Sir, what do you think? Is there any hope for me? May I now go back and go up to the Wicket-gate? Will I not be abandoned for this and sent back ashamed? I am sorry I have listened to this man’s counsel. I pray my sin can be forgiven.”

**Evan.** “Your sin is very great, for in doing so you committed two evils. First, you have forsaken the way that is good. Second, you have walked on paths that are forbidden you. However, the man at the gate will receive you, for he has good will for people. Just take severe caution that you do not turn away again, lest you perish from the Way when his wrath is kindled.”

Then Christian decided to go back. Evangelist, after he embraced Christian, smiled at him and bid him God-speed. So Christian hurriedly went on his way and did not speak to any man who was beside the road on which he traveled. Even if anyone asked him a question, he would not answer. He went like one who was walking on forbidden ground and did not feel safe until he was traveling on the road he had left to follow Mr. Worldly Wiseman’s counsel. After a while,

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12 “All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law’” (Galatians 3:10).

13 “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him” (Psalm 2:12).

14 God-speed means “God speed (you),” to express a wish for the success of one who is setting out on some journey or enterprise (OED).
Christian came to the gate. Now, on a sign over the gate there was written these words: “Knock and the door will be opened to you.” He knocked, therefore, more than once or twice, saying,

May I now enter here? Will he within
Open to sorry me, though I have been
An undeserving rebel? Then shall I
Not fail to sing his lasting praise on high.

Finally a solemn person came to the gate. His name was Goodwill, and he asked who was there. He also asked about where he had come from and what he wanted.

**Chr.** “I am a poor burdened sinner. I have come from the City of Destruction, but I am going to Mount Zion, that I may be delivered from the wrath to come. I am told that the right way is to go through this gate, and am wondering if you are willing to let me in.”

**Good Will.** “I am willing with all my heart.” So with that, he opened the gate.

When Christian was stepping in, Goodwill grabbed him and pulled him. Then Christian said, “Why did you do that?” Goodwill told him, “Not far from the gate there is a strong castle, whose captain is Beelzebub. From that castle, both he and those with him shoot arrows at those who come up to the gate with the intent to kill them before they enter.” Then Christian said, “I rejoice and at the same time I am filled with fear.” When he got in, Goodwill asked him who had directed him to the gate.

**Chr.** “Evangelist told me to come here and knock. So I did just that. He also told me that you, sir, would tell me what I must do.”

**Good Will.** “An open door is before you, and no man can shut it.”

**Chr.** “Now I can begin to reap the benefits from making this risky journey.”

**Good Will.** “Why did you come alone?”

**Chr.** “Because none of my neighbors felt they were in danger like I did.”

**Good Will.** “Did any of them know that you were coming?”

**Chr.** “Yes. My wife and children were the first to see me leave, and pleaded with me to return home. Also, some of my neighbors stood there crying and calling for me to return, but I put my fingers in my ears and continued to go on my way.”

**Good Will.** “Did none of them follow you and attempt to persuade you to go back?”

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15 “For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened” (Matthew 7:8).
**The Pilgrim's Progress**

Chr. “Yes. Both Obstinate and Pliable did. But when they saw it was futile, Obstinate returned home, ranting all the way. Pliable, on the other hand, came with me for a little while.”

**Good Will.** “Why did he not come all the way?”

Chr. “We traveled together until we came to the Slough of Despond. We both suddenly fell in. My neighbor Pliable became discouraged and would not go any farther. Getting out on the side that was closest to his house, he told me that I should possess the brave country alone for him. So he went on his way and I came here. He went after Obstinate, and I to this gate.”

**Good Will.** “Poor man! Does the celestial glory mean so little to him that he is unwilling to risk a few difficulties to obtain it?”

Chr. “I have told you the truth about Pliable. And if I should tell you all the truth about myself, you will see that I am no better than he. It is true that he went back to his own house. But I also turned aside to travel in the way of death after I was persuaded to do so by the carnal arguments of one Mr. Worldly Wiseman.”

**Good Will.** “Oh, did he approach you? Oh, no! He would have had you seek relief from the hands of Mr. Legality. Both of them are deceivers. Did you take his counsel?”

Chr. “Yes. I went searching for Mr. Legality until I realized that the mountain arising next to his house was about to fall on my head. Therefore, I was forced to stop.”

**Good Will.** “That mountain has caused the death of many, and will be the death of many more. You are blessed to have escaped being dashed to pieces.”

Chr. “I do not know what would have happened to me there if Evangelist had not met me again. I was so depressed. It was God’s mercy that he came to me again. Otherwise, I would never have come here. But now I have come, even though I am more fit for death because of the mountain than I am to stand here talking with my Lord. Oh, what a favor this is to me, that I am admitted here!”

**Good Will.** “We do not object to any who wish to enter. Whatever they have done before they come here, they will not be cast out. Therefore, good Christian, come a little way with me and I will teach you about the way you must go. Look ahead. Do you see the narrow way? That is the way you must go. It was made by the patriarchs, prophets, Christ, and His apostles. It is as straight as a ruler. That is the way you must go.”

Chr. “Are there no turns or winding curves by which a stranger may lose his way?”

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16 “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away” (John 6:37).
Good Will. “Yes, there are many ways that intersect with the narrow road, and they are crooked and wide. But you will be able to distinguish between the right and wrong way, because the right one is the only one that is straight and narrow.”

Then I saw in my dream that Christian asked him if he could help him remove the burden that was on his back, because he had not been relieved of it yet, nor could he get it off without someone’s help.

He told him, “As to your burden, be content to bear it until you come to the place of deliverance. There, it will fall from your back by itself.”

Then Christian began to prepare himself for his journey. Good Will told him that when he had gone some distance from the gate, he would come to Interpreter’s house. Having knocked there, he would be shown some excellent things. Then Christian left his friend who bid him God-speed.

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17 “But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:14).