



# GRACE ABOUNDING





## *Dates*

### **JAMES I 1603-1625**

#### **CHARLES I 1625-1649**

- 1628 Birth of John Bunyan
- Massachusetts Bay Colony 1630
- The Long Parliament called 1640
- Beginning of Civil War 1642
- The Westminster Assembly called 1643
- 1644 Bunyan in the Parliamentary Army
- 1647 Bunyan demobilized
- Charles I executed 1649
- 1649 Bunyan married

#### **COMMONWEALTH AND PROTECTORATE 1649-1660**

- Oliver Cromwell as Protector 1653
- 1655 Bunyan a member of the Bedford congregation
- Death of Oliver Cromwell 1658
- 1658 Death of Bunyan's wife
- 1659 Bunyan married again

#### **CHARLES II 1660-1685**

- Act of Uniformity and "the Great Ejection" 1660-1662
- 1661 Bunyan imprisoned
- 1666 Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners published
- Bunyan released from prison for a few months
- 1672 Bunyan called to be pastor in Bedford
- Bunyan released from prison
- 1677 Bunyan again imprisoned
- 1678 The Pilgrim's Progress (Part I) published
- 1680 The Life and Death of Mr. Badman published
- 1682 The Holy War published
- 1684 The Pilgrim's Progress (Part II) published

#### **JAMES II 1685-1688**

- 1688 Death of John Bunyan

#### **WILLIAM & MARY 1688-1702**

- 1689 Toleration Act
- 1691 Death of Elizabeth Bunyan



# GRACE ABOUNDING

THE LIFE, BOOKS & INFLUENCE OF  
JOHN BUNYAN

DAVID \* B \* CALHOUN



**CHRISTIAN FOCUS**





*For my mother and in memory of my father, who introduced me  
to The Pilgrim's Progress and, like Evangelist, showed me the  
way to the wicket gate and the Celestial City.*

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Also to Dorothy, and in memory of Jim, Bruce, at whose delightful Jubilee Farm in Macon, Georgia, I happily put the finishing touches on this book. Like Gaius (in the Bible and in *The Pilgrim’s Progress*) are the Bruces, “whose hospitality I and the whole church enjoy” (Romans 16:23).

Thanks also to the library staff at Covenant Theological Seminary, whose pleasant and able assistance brightened many days.

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### **Notes**

The “big picture” boxes at the beginning of each chapter serve as introductions. The boxes within the chapters contain additional information, applications, and explanations, generally from other writers.

Quotations from Bunyan are taken from the three-volume *Works of John Bunyan*, edited by George Offor, published in Glasgow in 1854, and reprinted by the Banner of Truth Trust in 1991. Parenthetical references give the volume and page numbers of these books.



## *Preface*

I came to know and love John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* when I was five years old. My mother and father had acquired a filmstrip illustrating the scenes in the book and, for almost a year, taught a Bible class in our home using these pictures. Week by week I listened and watched, fascinated and sometimes terrified, as the story unfolded. One picture that I could not forget was that of the man with the muck rake. The poor man was looking down, searching for something of value in the dirt and muck at his feet, while an angel in shining robes stood behind him holding a golden crown. Why would the man with the muck rake not look up? Why would he not turn around and see what he was missing? At the end of the class my father gave an appeal for personal response and commitment to Christ. I had just learned to write my name, so I signed a card and put it away in my mother's cedar chest.

I have loved *The Pilgrim's Progress* ever since. I have read it over and over and have collected forty different editions, in several languages and with various illustrations. The scenes of the book, such as the one of the man with the muck rake, have shaped my picture of life. And not mine only but those of many people all over the world, from Bunyan's day to the present.

In 1890 the Reverend William Landels wrote, in an introduction to the Altemus Edition of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, that Bunyan's book was "so well known that any information concerning either it or its author seems superfluous; and our ingenuity is at a loss to know how to write an introduction for a book for which, above all others, no introduction is required."<sup>1</sup> Bunyan and his book are by no means forgotten today, but neither are they known and loved as they were a hundred years ago. Many readers may appreciate a new introduction.

### **Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Introduction to *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Philadelphia: Henry Altemus, 1890).





*God hath chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised hath God chosen, yea, and things that are not, to bring to nought things that are. And why? That no flesh should glory in his presence. Perhaps, next to the first publishers of the Gospel of the blessed God, these sayings were never more strongly exemplified in any single individual . . . than in the conversion, ministry and writings of that eminent servant of Jesus Christ, Mr. John Bunyan.*

George Whitefield<sup>1</sup>

