

Goodwill

Then did Christian address himself to go back; and Evangelist, after he had kissed him, gave him one smile, and bid him God-speed. So he went on with haste, neither spake he to any man by the way; nor, if any asked him, would he vouchsafe them an answer. He went like one that was all the while treading on forbidden ground, and could by no means think himself safe, till again he was got into the way which he left, to follow Mr. Worldly Wiseman's counsel.

So, in process of time, Christian got up to the gate.

Now, over the gate there was written, 'Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.'

Matthew 7:8

"He that will enter in must first without
Stand knocking at the Gate, nor need he doubt
That is A KNOCKER but to enter in;
For God can love him, and forgive his sin."

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."

At last there came a grave person to the gate, named
Good-will, who asked who was there? and whence he
came? and what he would have?

CHRISTIAN Here is a poor burdened sinner. I come
from the City of Destruction, but am going to Mount
Zion, that I may be delivered from the wrath to come.
I would therefore, Sir, since I am informed that by
this gate is the way thither, know if you are
willing to let me in?

GOODWILL I am willing with all my heart, said he; and with that he opened the gate.

So when Christian was stepping in, the other gave him a pull. Then said Christian, What means that? The other told him. A little distance from this gate, there is erected a strong castle, of which Beelzebub is the captain; from thence, both he and them that are with him shoot arrows at those that come up to this gate, if haply they may die before they can enter in. Then said Christian, I rejoice and tremble. So when he was got in, the man of the gate asked him who directed him thither?

CHRISTIAN Evangelist bid me come hither, and knock, (as I did); and he said that you, Sir, would tell me what I must do.

GOODWILL An open door is set before thee, and no man can shut it.

CHRISTIAN Now I begin to reap the benefits of my hazards.

GOODWILL But how is it that you came alone?

CHRISTIAN Because none of my neighbours saw
 their danger, as I saw mine.

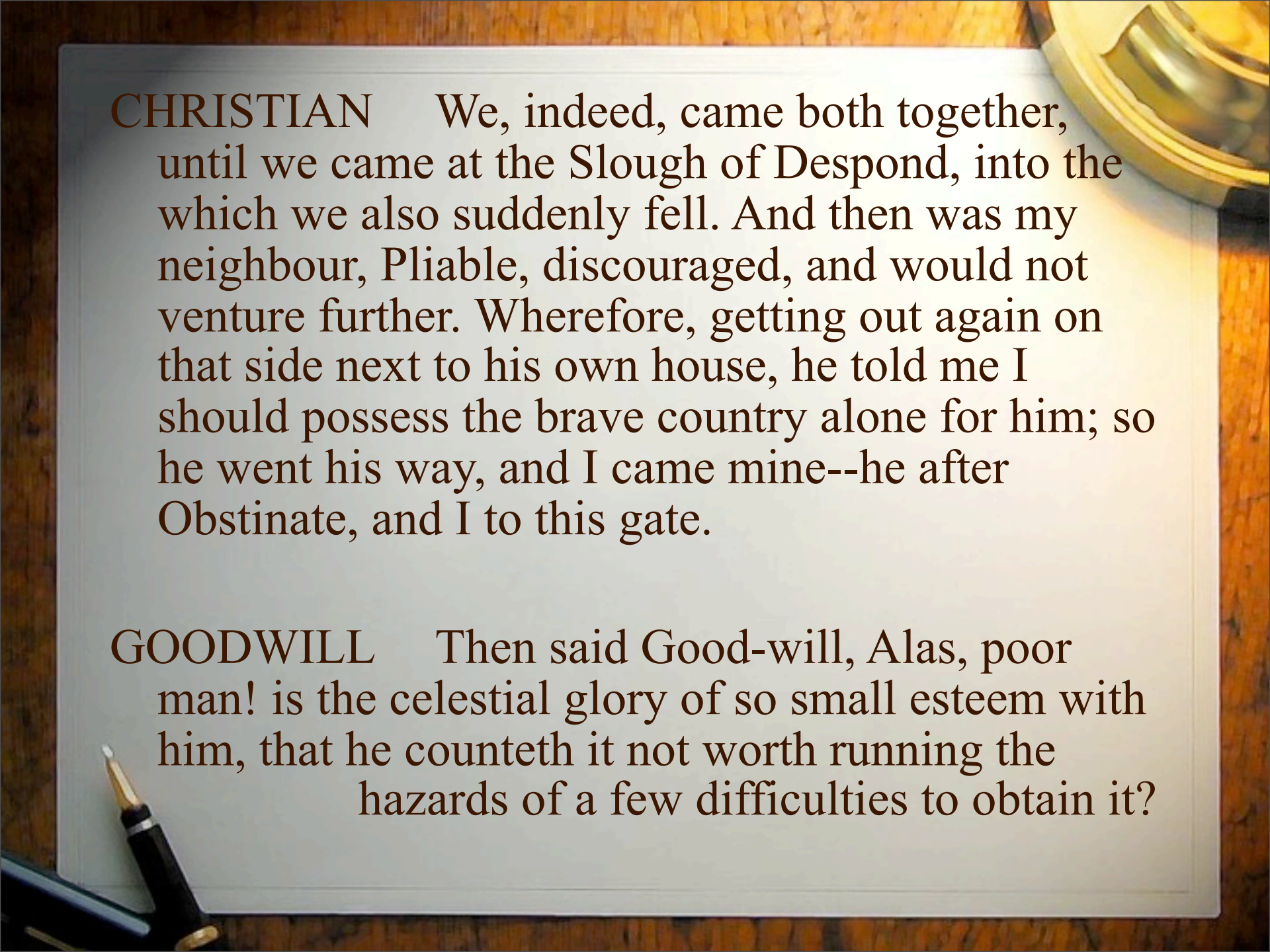
GOODWILL Did any of them know of your
 coming?

CHRISTIAN Yes; my wife and children saw me
 at the first, and called after me to turn again; also,
 some of my neighbours stood crying and calling
 after me to return; but I put my fingers in my ears,
 and so came on my way.

GOODWILL But did none of them follow you, to persuade you to go back?

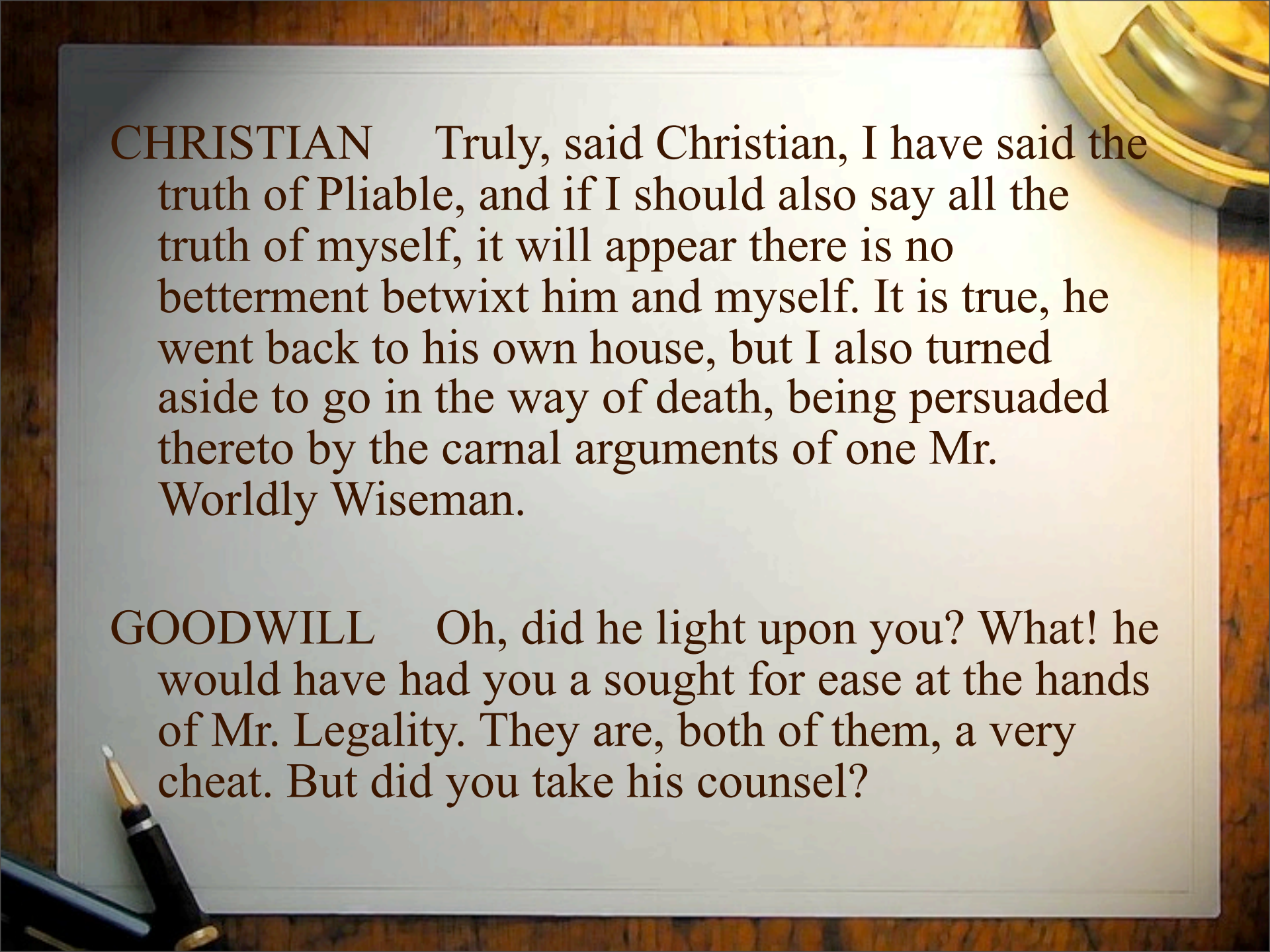
CHRISTIAN Yes, both Obstinate and Pliable; but when they saw that they could not prevail, Obstinate went railing back, but Pliable came with me a little way.

GOODWILL But why did he not come through?

A wooden desk with a fountain pen and a brass object.

CHRISTIAN We, indeed, came both together, until we came at the Slough of Despond, into the which we also suddenly fell. And then was my neighbour, Pliable, discouraged, and would not venture further. Wherefore, getting out again on that side next to his own house, he told me I should possess the brave country alone for him; so he went his way, and I came mine--he after Obstinate, and I to this gate.

GOODWILL Then said Good-will, Alas, poor man! is the celestial glory of so small esteem with him, that he counteth it not worth running the hazards of a few difficulties to obtain it?

A wooden desk with a white paper, a fountain pen, and a brass fastener. The paper contains two paragraphs of text. The fountain pen is black with gold accents, and the brass fastener is in the top right corner.

CHRISTIAN Truly, said Christian, I have said the truth of Pliable, and if I should also say all the truth of myself, it will appear there is no betterment betwixt him and myself. It is true, he went back to his own house, but I also turned aside to go in the way of death, being persuaded thereto by the carnal arguments of one Mr. Worldly Wiseman.

GOODWILL Oh, did he light upon you? What! he would have had you a sought for ease at the hands of Mr. Legality. They are, both of them, a very cheat. But did you take his counsel?

CHRISTIAN Yes, as far as I durst; I went to find out Mr. Legality, until I thought that the mountain that stands by his house would have fallen upon my head; wherefore there I was forced to stop.

GOODWILL That mountain has been the death of many, and will be the death of many more; it is well you escaped being by it dashed in pieces.

CHRISTIAN Why, truly, I do not know what had become of me there, had not Evangelist happily met me again, as I was musing in the midst of my dumps; but it was God's mercy that he came to me again, for else I had never come hither.

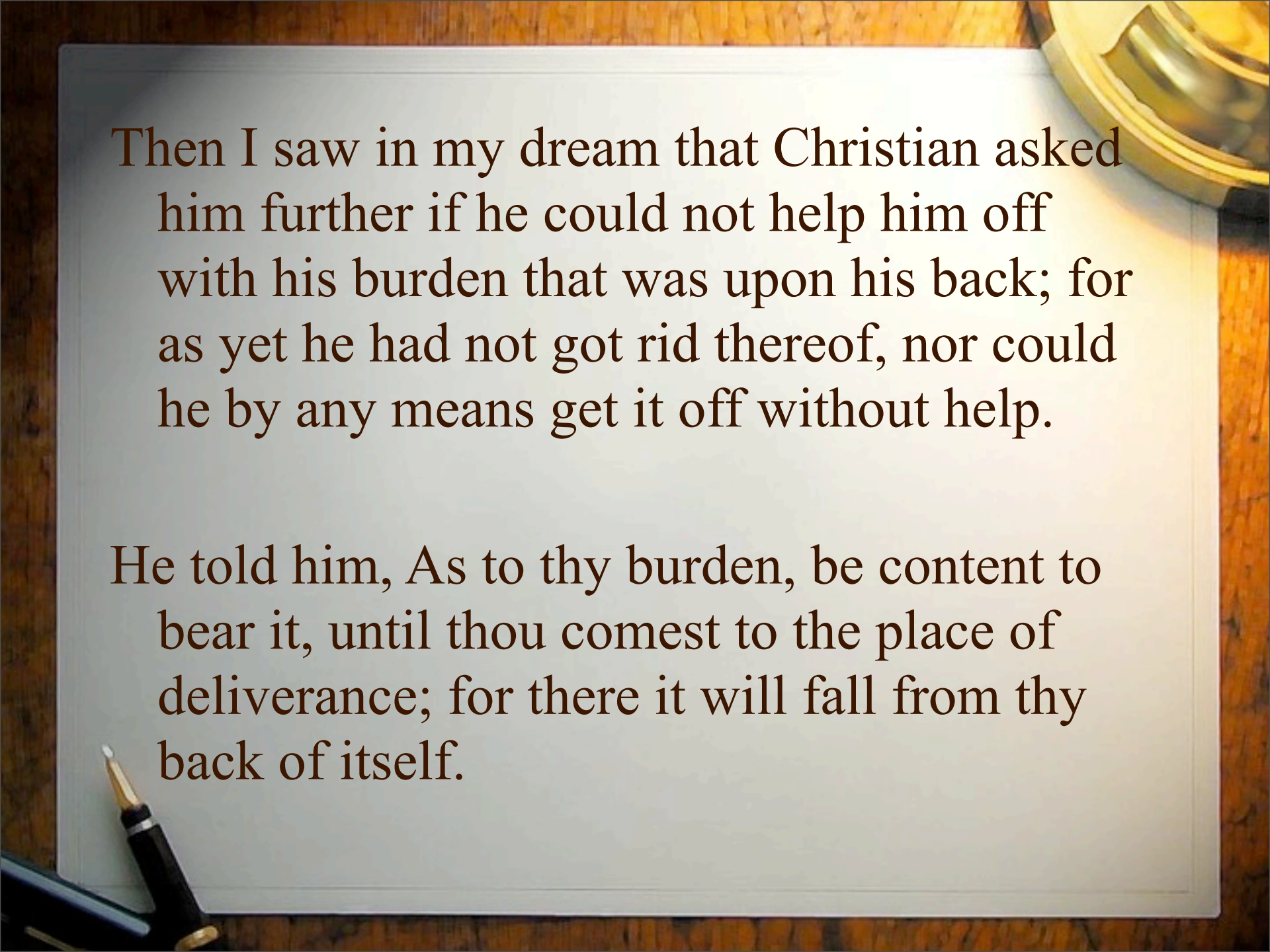
But now I am come, such a one as I am, more fit, indeed, for death, by that mountain, than thus to stand talking with my lord; but, oh, what a favour is this to me, that yet I am admitted entrance here!

GOODWILL We make no objections against any, notwithstanding all that they have done before they came hither. They are in no wise cast out **John 6.37**; and therefore, good Christian, come a little way with me, and I will teach thee about the way thou must go. Look before thee; dost thou see this narrow way? **THAT** is the way thou must go; it was cast up by the patriarchs, prophets, Christ, and his apostles; and it is as straight as a rule can make it. This is the way thou must go.

CHRISTIAN But, said Christian, are there no turnings or windings by which a stranger may lose his way?

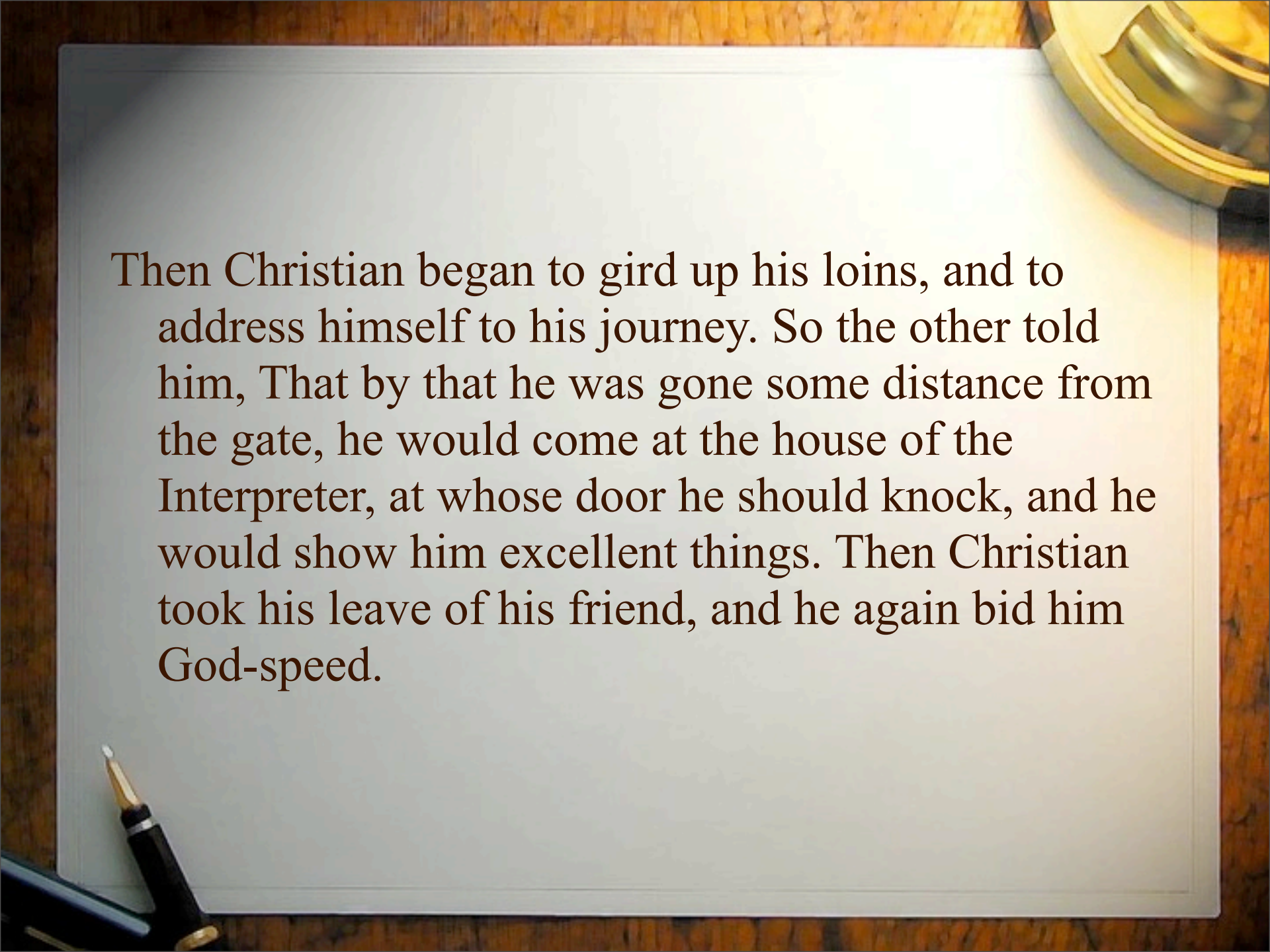
GOODWILL Yes, there are many ways butt down upon this, and they are crooked and wide. But thus thou mayest distinguish the right from the wrong, the right only being straight and narrow.

Matthew 7:14

A wooden desk with a white paper, a fountain pen, and a brass object. The paper is the main focus, with text written on it. The pen is in the bottom left corner, and the brass object is in the top right corner.

Then I saw in my dream that Christian asked him further if he could not help him off with his burden that was upon his back; for as yet he had not got rid thereof, nor could he by any means get it off without help.

He told him, As to thy burden, be content to bear it, until thou comest to the place of deliverance; for there it will fall from thy back of itself.

A piece of white paper with a thin double-line border is placed on a dark wooden surface. In the bottom-left corner, the tip of a black fountain pen with a gold nib is visible. In the top-right corner, a portion of a brass compass is visible. The text on the paper is a paragraph from a story, written in a dark brown serif font.

Then Christian began to gird up his loins, and to address himself to his journey. So the other told him, That by that he was gone some distance from the gate, he would come at the house of the Interpreter, at whose door he should knock, and he would show him excellent things. Then Christian took his leave of his friend, and he again bid him God-speed.