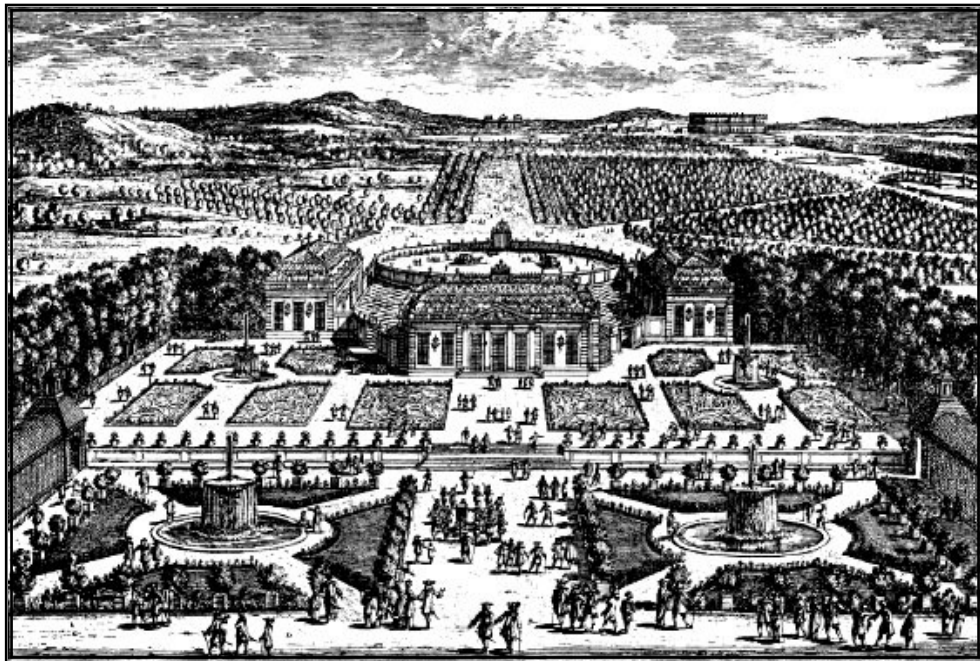




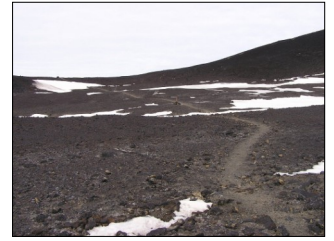
THE GARDEN OF THE SOUL

Ye are God's husbandry (garden)... ' 1 Cor 3 v 9

1. The Apostle P____ in our text, and Solomon in his famous 'S____ of S_____' both compare our souls to a garden. (S of S 4 v 12)
2. All g_____ begin as just waste gr_____ and have to be cultivated. The finest garden in the world is said to be the garden of the Palace of Versailles. It began as a marshy wasteland and it took 25 years and 40 million French francs to make it into the royal g_____.



3. Our hearts are like w____-gr_____ until God's grace through Christ comes to us. We might think of John Bun____ or John Newton as examples.



4. The soil of a garden has to be dug over and br_____ up and this is like the hard and difficult experiences of life that God uses to break up the soil of our s_____ and make it fruitful and useful.



5. All gardens need to be cultivated..... An Atheist called Thelwall visited a Christian called Coleridge one day. He argued that it wasn't necessary to teach ch_____ how to be good because they would become good naturally. Coleridge, who was not a very good g_____ invited Thelwall into his untidy and overgrown garden. 'Why don't you cultivate it and grow flowers and vegetables?' said Thelwall. 'O' said Coleridge, 'I am just waiting for it to happen naturally!'

6. Gardens have to be weeded, and we have to fight against our s_____.



7. All gardens need s_____ and r_____. Our souls cannot grow or be blessed without the sunshine of God's love

