

This World Is Not Our Home

Phil. 3:20-21

I. INTRODUCTION:

- I. 2 As long as we live in this world, we are not at home (pilgrimage): Read first verse of **“This World Is Not My Home.”**

This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru.
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue;
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.
O Lord, you know I have no friend like you,
If heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do?
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

2. No message is more clearly taught in the Bible than this one (2 Cor. 4:16-5:10; Phil. 3:20-21).
3. 3 Let's consider some things we must remember concerning the fact that **“This World Is Not Our Home”**.

II. DISCUSSION:

- I. 4 **Remember we are sojourners and pilgrims.**

- A. A **sojourner** is “a temporary resident.” (*Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*)
- B. A **pilgrim** is “one who journeys in foreign lands”. (*Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*)
 - (1) Notice who Peter addresses in his first epistle (1 Pet. 1:1).
 - (2) Notice how Peter describes a Christian's life (1 Pet. 1:17, KJV).
 - (3) Notice the primary obligation of Christians (1 Pet. 2:11-12).
- C. Can you now see life from another vantage point? We live in a “war zone”; a spiritual “war zone”; we live in “enemy-occupied” territory; we are “refugees” (2 Cor. 13:5).
- D. Powerful Bible example of a “sojourner”: **Abraham**: Gen. 11:31-12:4; Acts 7:2-5a; Heb. 11:8-10; Heb. 11:13-16
 - (1) What statement does your life make? A statement that “*declares plainly that [you] seek a homeland*”? “...*a better, that is, a heavenly country*”, a “...*city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God*”?
 - (2) Sadly many Christian's lives **don't** make this statement. Sadly, the only difference between some Christians and the people of the world is where the “Christian” goes on Sunday mornings; otherwise there is little or no difference! Is that the case with me? 2 Cor. 13:5; Mal. 1:10; Heb. 10:38

2. 5 **Remember not to become comfortable in this world.**

- A. One of the biggest dangers we face is **accommodation** to the world.

- (1) **Accommodate**: “to make fit, suitable, ...to bring into agreement or concord” (*Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*)
 - (2) **Accommodate** can also mean to “acclimate, to adjust”; “to reconcile opposing views, to compromise” (boiling frog). Christianity is not an “accommodating” religion!! **Does this sound like accommodation?** (Col. 3:5-6; Rom. 8:5-14; Eph. 4:17-20)
- B. A chameleon avoids danger by blending in with his surroundings. Our greatest danger is when we try to blend in with the world! (Jas. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 2 Cor. 6:17-7:1)
- C. Satan has used many devices to get people to “fall away” (e.g., persecution and false teachers). **6** However, his most effective tool is “respectable worldliness.”
- ☛ **Materialism** (over emphasis on “things”; Lk. 12:15)
 - ☛ **Entertainment** (TV, R-rated movies, pornography, etc.; Prov. 23:7)
 - ☛ **Recreation** (you name the form, whether “clean” or “unclean” most of it interferes with our service to God, e.g., Matt. 6:33; Heb. 10:25).
 - ☛ **Worldly pleasures** (social drinking, smoking, etc.; Jas. 4:4; 1 Pet. 4:1-4)
- (1) Do you like the “*things of the world*” or do the “*things of this world*” bother you? (Acts 17:16; 2 Pet. 2:7-8)
 - (2) Are you trying to live with “one foot in the church and one in the world”? It will never do! (Lk. 9:23-25; Jas. 1:27; 4:4)
 - (3) Do you wholeheartedly agree with Paul? “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 13:5)
- D. **7** How do we keep from **accommodating** ourselves to this world? 2 Cor. 13:5
- ☛ **Watch our attitude!** (Col. 3:1-3; Gal. 2:20)
 - ☛ **Watch our treasure!** (Matt. 6:19-21)
 - ☛ **Watch our friendships!** (1 Cor. 15:33)
 - ☛ **Watch our habits!** (Col. 3:5-10)

3. **8 Remember that heaven is our real home.**

- A. We need to strive for the “*heart of a stranger*” (Ex. 23:9; Heb. 13:14; Heb. 11:8-10).
- B. First generation “immigrants” always long for things of home (I once heard story about a “Bosnian” café in Grand Rapids on public radio. Café had all the treats you would find in a café in any Bosnian city.)
- C. We should be just like children born to immigrants/sojourners who want to return, for example, to Bosnia. We have never seen our “homeland”; we have only heard about it, yet we long for it! (Heb. 11:1)
- D. Do you maintain the heart of a sojourner? Do you consider yourself to be a pilgrim and a stranger in this world? (Heb. 11:13-16)

E. How do you maintain the heart of a sojourner?

- ☛ **Read, study about our home and Father in heaven!** (Rev. 21:1-4; 21:10-22:5)
- ☛ **Meditate about heaven!** (Col. 3:1-2)
- ☛ **Talk about heaven!** (Acts 19:8)
- ☛ **Sing about heaven!** (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
- ☛ **Consider what is at stake!** (Matt. 16:26; Heb. 2:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:10-11)

III. 9 CONCLUSION:

1. There is an old saying, “Home is where the heart is.”
2. Where is your heart? (Col. 3:1-2; Jas. 4:4; Heb. 13:14)
3. Can you say “Amen!” to Paul’s statement? (Phil. 1:21)
4. Is your desire his (Paul’s) desire? (Phil. 1:23)
5. 10 Invitation:

Gal 2:20: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (NKJV)*

Adapted from a sermon by Gary Henry