

This World Is Not Our Home

Philippians 3:20-21

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** As long as we live in this world, we are not at home (pilgrimage): First verse of “**This World Is Not My Home**” (author: Albert Edward Brumley): **

*This world is not my home I'm just passing through
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*

- A. Does that song strike a chord with you? Do you really and truly feel “this world is not [your] home [and you're] just passing through”?

- B. ** No message is more clearly taught in the Bible than this one:

I Pet. 2:11: “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,”

Phil. 3:20-21: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

2. **3** Let's consider some things we must remember concerning the fact “**This World Is Not Our Home**”.

II. DISCUSSION:

If we are truly living as a “sojourner and pilgrim” in this world we must...

1. **4** Remember where we hold our citizenship:

- A. Our citizenship is not here on this earth; not in this life: **Phil. 3:20**: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

- B. We are only brief visitors to this plane of existence (Jas. 4:14):

Psa. 90:10: “The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

- C. That means when it comes to this life we are but sojourners and pilgrims.

(1) A **sojourner** is “a temporary resident.” (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)

(2) A **pilgrim** is “one who journeys in foreign lands.” (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)

- (a) Notice who Peter addresses in his first epistle (**I Pet. 1:1**: “**To the pilgrims** of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.”).

- (b) Notice how Peter describes a Christian's life (**I Pet. 1:17**: “And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, **pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.**” KJV).

(c) That places an obligation on Christians (1 Pet. 2:11: “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul**”).

D. What is the ramification?

- (1) Do we really have a clear picture of our lives? Can you now see life from another vantage point?
- (2) We live in a “war zone”; a spiritual “war zone”; we live in “enemy-occupied” territory; we are “refugees” (2 Cor. 13:5: “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.”).

E. We have a powerful Bible example of a “sojourner and pilgrim”: **Abraham**: Gen. 11:31-12:4

Acts 7:2-5: “And he said, ‘Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, 3 and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.’ 4 Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. 5 And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him.”

Heb. 11:8-10: “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

Heb. 11:13-16: “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were **strangers and pilgrims** on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

- (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 the lives of many Christians do not make this statement.
- (3) Sadly, the only difference between some Christians and people of the world is where the “Christian” goes once and awhile on Sunday; otherwise there is no real difference!

If we are truly living as a “sojourner and pilgrim” in this world we must...

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** also means to “acclimate, to adjust”; “to reconcile opposing views, to compromise” (boiling frog).

- (a) Christianity is not an “accommodating” religion!! **Ex. 20:5:** “you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...” (i.e., TLB: “very possessive”).
- (i) Exclusive insofar as its objective: **Jn. 14:6:** “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- (ii) Exclusive insofar as its doctrine: 2 Jn. 9-11
- (iii) Exclusive insofar as its requirements: 1 Jn. 1:5-7; 2:15-17

(b) **Does this sound like accommodation?**

Col. 3:5-6: “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.” (KJV); Rom. 6:1-6; 8:5-13; 12:1-2

- B. A chameleon avoids danger by blending in with his surroundings. Our greatest danger is when we try to blend in with the world! Are you a “spiritual chameleon”?

Jas. 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

1 Jn. 2:15-17: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

2 Cor. 6:17-7:1: “Therefore: ‘Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.’ 18 ‘I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.’ 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

- C. Satan uses many devices to get us to “fall away” (e.g., persecution and false teachers). However, his most effective tool is “respectable worldliness.”

☛ **Materialism** (over emphasis on “things”; **Lk. 12:15:** “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”)

☛ **Entertainment** (TV, R-rated movies, pornography, etc.; Prov. 23:7)

☛ **Recreation** (you name the form, whether “clean” or “unclean” most of it is interferes with our service to God, e.g., Matt. 6:33; Heb. 10:25).

☛ **Worldly pleasures** (social drinking, legalized drugs, smoking, etc.; 1 Cor. 9:27)

- (1) Do you like the “things of the world” or do the “things of this world” bother you? (**2 Pet. 2:7-8:** “and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — “).

- (2) Are you trying to live with “one foot in the church and one in the world”? It will never do!

Lk. 9:23-24: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

Lk. 16:13: “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Jas. 1:27: “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Jas. 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

(3) Joe Louis: “Everyone wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die to get there.”

Phil. 1:21-23: “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

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.”

D. How do we keep from **accommodating** ourselves to this world?

- ☛ **Watch our attitude!** (**Col. 3:1-2:** “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”)
- ☛ **Watch our treasure!** (Matt. 6:19-21)
- ☛ **Watch our friendships!** (1 Cor. 15:33)
- ☛ **Watch our habits!** (**Col. 3:5-10:** “Therefore put to death your members on the earth...”)

If we truly live as a “sojourner and pilgrim” in this world we must...

3. Remember heaven is our real home:

A. We need to strive for the “heart of a stranger”:

Ex. 23:9: “Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

Heb. 13:14: “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”

B. First generation “immigrants” always long for things of home (Jennifer and the Philippines).

C. We should be just like children born to immigrants/sojourners who want to return, for example, to the Philippines.

(1) We have never seen our “homeland”; we have only heard about it, yet we long for it! (Heb. 11:1)

(2) Do I maintain the “heart of a sojourner”? Do I consider myself to be a sojourner and pilgrim (stranger) in this world?

Heb. 11:13-16: “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly

country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

D. How do we 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:** “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”)

☛ **Talk about heaven!** (**Acts 19:8:** “And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.”; Acts 20:7)

☛ **Sing about heaven!** (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)

☛ **Consider what is at stake!** (Matt. 16:26)

Heb. 2:1-3: “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,”

2 Pet. 3:10-11: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”

III. CONCLUSION:

1. There is an old saying, “Home is where the heart is.”

2. Where is your heart?

Col. 3:1-2: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Jas. 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Heb. 13:14: “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”

3. Can you say Amen! to Paul’s statement? (Phil. 1:21)

4. Is your desire his (Paul’s) desire? (**Phil. 1:23:** “For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better”)

5. Invitation:

Adapted from a sermon by Gary Henry.