

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Churchatcorinth.com

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

May 27, 2018

“Why This World Is Not Our Home”

By Brian Meade

Notice the HCSB on I Peter 1:17, “*And if you address as Father the One who judges impartially based on each one’s work, you are to conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your temporary residence.*” It is good for us to remind ourselves why we should not treat this world as our permanent place of residence. God gives us several reasons in the scriptures why we should not long to stay on the earth beyond our days.

I. Christians Are Called Out Of This World.



Paul said in II Thessalonians 2:14, “*to which He called you by our gospel....*” The gospel is the power & the means by which we have been called out of Satan’s kingdom (the world) and into Christ’s kingdom (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9). The church is from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which literally means “*called out ones.*” Vine’s tells us it is, “*from ek, “out of,” and klesis, “a calling” (kaleo, “to call”).* (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Page 42) And this is precisely the reason why we can say, with Paul and the church at Philippi, “*For our citizenship is in heaven.*” (Philippians 3:20) It is evident from the scriptures that every Christian is to remain separate and apart from this world to do God’s service (II Timothy 2:21; I Corinthians 6:9-11).

Christians are to “*love not the world, neither the things that are in the world,*” (I John 2:15), keep themselves, “*unspotted from the world,*” (James 1:27), and think of themselves as, “*sojourners and pilgrims.*” (I Peter 2:11) Being separate from the world is the key to being God’s called out people (2 Corinthians 6:17-18). And that will make a difference in the way we look at our life here! We will no longer focus on the *here and now*, but will be living with heaven in view (Colossians 3:1-7).

II. This World Is Corrupted By Sin.

The Bible teaches us that God “*has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*” (English Standard Version) Peter is telling us, that even though Christians have escaped this world by Christ’s blood, we still have to live in an environment that has been dominated & corrupted by sin. For this very reason, we often feel like, this world is NOT our home. It is evident by watching the news, listening to the radio, and reading the newspaper that this world is truly a wicked place! In the news, we will often hear about bombings, school shootings, murders, rapes, and instances where children are mistreated and abused. Not to mention the rampant dishonesty, corruption, and lies told every day because of sin’s desire. We ought to long to escape this sinful world, with all of its immorality!

Truly, one of the great promises God offers us— is a place where sin is no longer to be found. The Bible teaches us that “*.....nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*” (Revelation 21:27)

III. This World Does Not Understand Or Accept Us.

Peter was speaking about all of us, as he said, *“For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”* (I Peter 4:3-4)

It is a fact all too real, that Christians stand out as strange and odd to a world that loves to practice sin. Old friends, and even family members may not understand why we don't behave the way we used to. Why we don't do like the rest of the world in practicing sinful deeds. They have a hard time realizing—that since we have been converted to Christ—we are a completely different person (2 Corinthians 5: 17). We are called to *“deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.”* (Titus 2:11-12) We can't practice sin, if we want to please God (Rom. 8:8). The reason for the misunderstanding by the world is all because they are unwilling to deny or give up sin. Not only do people in the world fail to understand why we live differently, but they also reject us for doing so. Jesus even warned His disciples about the hatred of the world for being different (John 15:18-20).

IV. This World is Only Our Temporary Dwelling.

It was long ago that Moses spoke about how short our life is on the earth in Psalms 90:9-10, *“For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; we finish our years like a sigh. 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.”* This passage of scripture reminds us that we have only a limited amount of time to live on the earth.

According to God's word, we have approximately seventy to eighty years as a normal lifespan. That's why James refers to the brevity of our life as, *“a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”* (James 4:14)

And even if a man could have it all here in this life—the finest house, the finest car, and the finest luxuries of life—death would still come and take it all away (Mark 8:36; Luke 12:19-20; Luke 16:19-22). As much as we might want to, we cannot stay here forever. It is sad reality—that so many are laboring so hard—for things they cannot keep; because in the end, the world itself will be no more (2 Peter 3:10-11). That's why a Christian could live in poverty — with little in this world to call his own— and as long as he knows the Lord, he can be content (I Timothy 6:6-8); because he knows this world is not our home, and just like the song says, we're *“just passing through.”*

V. God Has Prepared Us A Better Place.

The examples of true and genuine faith by God's people in Hebrews 11:8-16 are simply amazing! They showed not only great faith, but also great sacrifice and hope in God's reward (Hebrews 11:6). The way they lived as, *“pilgrims and strangers on the earth”* (verse 13), speaks volumes to us about a proper attitude about our life here and now.

Why did Abraham give up his homeland to live the life of a wanderer in a strange land? The Bible tells us, *“for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”* (Hebrews 11:10) Not only Abraham, but his sons and their sons had this kind of faith. Why did others endure suffering so greatly in verses 36-38? The same reason— heaven!

We need to have the same faith in God's promises of an eternal home in heaven (I Peter 1:3-9). And may we have faith enough to live life in view of eternity. Every Christian needs to long for and desire the better land that God has prepared for the faithful and true! (Matthew 25:34)

Before Jesus died and went back to the Father, He spoke of this better place to His disciples in John 14:1-3, *“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. “In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”* I am sure it gave them no small amount of comfort and joy to know that they would one day be reunited with their Lord in Heaven.

Peter speaks of the Christian's reward in 1 Peter 1:3-5, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

We, as Christians, are called to make the sacrifices of sin's pleasures (Hebrews 11:24), of conformity to this world (Romans 12:1-2), of the love of the world (I John 2:15-17), and of self (Luke 9:23-24; Galatians 2:20); and this we do joyfully, knowing that God will reward us far greater than what we could ever give up living here in this world— after all, this world is not our home....

Free Home
**BIBLE
STUDY**

A Women's Bible Class

will meet monthly at Miche, TN. at the home of
Chris and Kathryn Callahan the 3rd Thursday of
the Month at 7:00 PM.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Norvell (in Corinth Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Mike LaRue, and Eric Potts,, Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Kimberly McCullough, and Robert Adams, Megan Roach, and Velma Tucker.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Daniel Holloway
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "Understanding Our Salvation"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Jerry Kennemur
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)
Page 92, Question #9

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Sam Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Dan Cottrell
Psalm 8:1-4
Chris Callahan
Paul Busby
Song Leader: Lee Busby & Adam Harris
Lord's Table: Men of the Congregation Lead Singing
Assisting: Brian Meade
Singing Service: Jerry Kennemur
Invitation:
Closing Prayer:

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 30th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
Page 69, Question #1
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs