

The Believer- PILGRIM passing through

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Main Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Supporting Scriptures: Hebrews 11: 1-16; Genesis 15: 6; John 14:1-3 ; Mark 14:24

Notes:

Peter is writing to people in the roman empire who were suffering because they believed in Jesus. Some of them were killed because they obeyed the commandments of the Lord Jesus and lived a life set apart for the Lord and in so doing it testifies against a life that is lived according to the worldly desires. People didn't think much of these individuals and they were living under much persecution. And they didn't know what would be the next thing on the agenda; they had to depend on the Lord. They had no favor from the state or where they work and were ridiculed for their faith in Jesus. The first thing Peter wants them to know is that even though they are considered strangers scattered throughout the earth and so too is our position as believers. We are strangers and the more we affirm this the easier it becomes to stand for the Lord. We are not of this world but like Abram said of himself - we are strangers passing through. Pilgrims mean we are visitors to this world; this world is not our home. Believers are citizens of heaven and that's where we belong and we will be with our God. That's the real place for the believer. We are just temporary residents passing through. If where we are now is temporary it means there are not many things we should concern ourselves about as we pass through. Our focus is not on living in this temporary realm, it's on God and savior Jesus. We all will be heading to the grave shortly but after death there is the judgement where everyone will face the King of Kings. The believer is not afraid because he knows this is not our home.

Hebrews 11: 1- 16

V1 - the definition of faith

All these people from Abel to Abraham died still believing what God had promised them. For our faith to be effective in these difficult times it means that we must be aware and know the promise that he has promised us. We must carefully search the scriptures to know what the promises are for the believer. All these people died not receiving the promise. They agreed they were foreigners here on earth. - Why is this important? Why should we see ourselves as foreigners? - the quicker we realize this world in the light we should see it; a world that is passing away with all its lust, the quicker we can stand in the day of temptation. Whatever things we gain on this side we would hold on to it loosely. We must see what God has promised us and focus on it.

Jesus said "no man can have two masters..."

The only way we can look for a country is to come to the reality that we don't own anything on this side. We are strangers passing through.

Abrams' passion was for where God was taking him and not where he was coming from. He was looking for a better place. Abram was looking beyond the land of Canaan for a heavenly homeland.

Faith Deliverance International Ministries

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John 14:1-3

When the trials of this world begin to press against us we have to go back to the word. We are living in a world where the pressure is turned on against the believers but don't be troubled. Trust in GOD. There is a city being prepared for us. He is gone to prepare a place for the oppressed and persecuted and those who are ridiculed.

You are a citizen of heaven and that's the position of the believer. We are not ordinary, although we are persecuted and treated with contempt. We are not ordinary, we have been handpicked by God. Everyone of us is God's choice.

These words are to encourage those who are suffering and hurting. These people were running for their lives and they were not allowed to make it known that they have friendship. They were not concerned about houses and riches; their eyes were fixed on what they were to receive. God picked you out according to the foreknowledge of God the father. We called out to turn our backs on the old world. We are all sinners - Christ called us and elected us out of this world as his own children. Set apart to be holy to do exactly and be who God wants us to be.

Foreknowledge - to see the future beforehand. God sees everything at once. Humans are subjected to time but when the Lord looks on my life he knows my life already from beginning to end. That's why he has the ability to allow everything to work together for our good. We were all against the image of God, We are set apart unto obedience to his will - the highest form of worship.

How is it possible when we look on our lives in its low state, that God would spare his wrath and condemnation. Those of us who are called and chosen are covered by the blood. The blood symbolizes a cleansing from sin and obedience to God. Jesus Christ.

Everyone of us who are suffering or persecuted. Peter says we all have one thing in common and it's a lively hope and this is not something that may happen. This hope is not determined by what happens in this realm, it's outside of this realm.

Our hope is a reality because it came from the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. If he was not the one who was sent to take away the sin then our hope would be dead. We must die in faith, believing. What are we to receive? It has everything to do with eternal life. This gift we have been given we will realize after when this world is passed. When all this is passed now we will see this great salvation. We can be confident in our life here and in standing for the Lord and not being weak when we are tested. If we need strength to call on him we are not alone. Peter wanted us to know there are a lot of strangers that are passing through. There are many souls who are called and you're not alone. There are many soldiers in the army and we all have the same enemy warring against us. We must be certain the Christ Jesus raised from the dead then we will have a certainty for our hope.

Don't worry about this life and what isn't working out for you here there is a better place. Don't put your trust in the things that God has allowed us to have. Find no comfort in it. There is something better than what this world can give us.

Heaven is real! It sounds sweeter all the time. God gave this hope to us!