

This World is Not My Home

“This world is not my home I’m just a passin’ through....” We sing that song on a regular basis, but do we realize what it actually says? One of the things we need to be constantly aware of and need to continue to remember is that very thing....this world is not our home—we are just passing through. The word of God constantly teaches us that all of this that we have now is just temporary and that we need not get comfortable with it.

John says in **I John 2:15-17**:

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

James said in his letter, chapter 4, verses 4ff –

“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred (enmity) toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

Paul, in **Romans 12:2** – **“Do not conform anymore to the pattern of this world...”**

And Peter, in a passage so often quoted from this pulpit that everyone should know it—**I Peter 2:9-12**:

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

So, what are all of these inspired writers saying? What is it about our own condition that we need to know in order to be the kind of person God wants us to be?

First, we are not to believe that all there is is the here and now. The “eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die” philosophy that says there is nothing to look forward to is simply not true. Second, loving the world (lusting after the things that are self-gratifying) puts us in a very dangerous position. We become God’s enemy. We are opposing Him. We have chosen ourselves and our will over His. Third, everything here on this earth is temporary. You truly can’t take it with you. The treasure that you accumulate (your stuff) will eventually become someone else’s treasure. Jesus said it plainly when He said a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. Paul told Timothy in **II Timothy 6:17–19** to invest in life that is truly life—eternal life. Eternal life is the only possession we

invest in me that is truly me—eternal life. Eternal life is the only possession we can count on. It is the only “treasure” we can keep.

Fourth, all of the here and now will be destroyed. John said “the world and its desires pass away....” Peter said in II Peter 3 that the “heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.” He goes on to say “since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?” and the inference is how should you live this life on this earth, knowing it is to be destroyed. We are to live holy and godly lives, looking forward to the destruction of the heavens by fire and the melting of the elements because of the intense heat. We are to look forward, Peter says, to a “new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”