

Title: Christians as Sojourners (Part 2)

Passage: 1 Peter 2:9-17

Introduction

- We are all ephemeral
- We all have a terminal disease: mortality

Psalms 39:5-6a

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah Surely a man goes about as a shadow!

- How we live our life now makes a difference for all eternity.
- How shall we live our lives here on earth?

Passage: 1 Peter 2:9-17

Context of Passage:

- Readers: ones who are under pressure. Asking: does anyone care?
- Answer: Yes! Think what God has already done for you. God is your Father; trust Him.
- How trust Him? Live as salt and light. Through you, God extends His mercy and grace to others.

EXPOSITION

1 Peter 2:11-12

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Overview: How shall we live?

- I. Christians are sojourners and exiles in this world
- II. Christians should abstain from passions from the flesh
- III. Christians should have honorable conduct to those around us.

I. Christians are sojourners and exiles in this world

1 Peter 2:11a

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles

Beloved

- You are the object of God's love.
- How? Look at the cross.

Hebrews 13:5b

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Sojourners

- Sojourners = "Alongside the house" (a foreigner)
- Christian = one who does not
- our citizenship is in heaven, not here on earth

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Exiles

- Exile = a visitor who travels in another country and makes a brief stay

Sojourners and Exiles

- Christians = true citizenship is in heaven

1 John 2:15-16

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. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Hebrews 13:14

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

- city that is to come = heaven!

What is heaven like?

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- This is what we should look forward to!
- No more sin!

Revelation 21:10-21

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

- beauty of the city is incomparable and unimaginable by the human mind
- City built by precious metals with streets of gold

Revelation 21:22-27

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- Greatest beauty of heaven: God Himself will convene and meet with us directly.
- To be in heaven is much greater than anything this world could most comfortably provide
- Earthly's blessings are mere drops compared to heaven's ocean!

Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Since we are sojourners and exiles, how shall we live?

II. Christians should abstain from passions from the flesh (Internal battles with sin)

1 Peter 2:11b

abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

The flesh

- our innate sinful nature (we are sinful and continue to sin regardless of environment)

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

which wage war against your soul.

- war = relentless, continuous aggression towards destruction
- Against your soul = from within

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- Our sin comes from within our flesh

Romans 7:18-20

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

If you struggle with sin and aware of it, then you are a Christian (otherwise, you are dead to sin)

- Christian: don't be complacent but continue to fight

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Galatians 5:16-17

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

III. Christians should have honorable conduct to those around us. (External relations with others)

1 Peter 2:12

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

- Christian's transformed heart will reflect into right behavior

Matthew 5:14-16 (echo from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- Good works reflect the outflow of true faith

Titus 2:7

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,

Titus 2:14

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 3:8

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Good deeds

- Meaning = actions that are good according to what God considers as good.
- What is good? Examples:

Matthew 19:16-17, 21

And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." ...Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Matthew 6:4

so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:18

that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 10:42

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Acts 9:36, 42

Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity...And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Why good works?

- God wants good deeds to bring people to Himself
- To bring glory to God (not to ourselves)
- "I am doing good because of Jesus. I wouldn't be where I am without Him."

APPLICATIONS

If a Christian:

Remember where your heavenly citizenship is and who are your fellow co-citizens.

- Remind yourself Who is on the throne

Isaiah 46:9-10

remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Fight sin more than anything else

- if you don't kill sin, sin will kill you.
- You won't lose your salvation but your life will be miserable.
- Look inwardly and fight sin.
- God will give you victory. If struggle with victory on your own, then involve others as part of the body of Christ.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 3:12-13

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Consider the impact you have on others around you; you can direct them to Christ through your good behavior.

- Keep fighting on and doing good. God will use it for His glory.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

- ultimately, any good comes from God.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

If not a Christian:

Romans 10:8-9

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.