

Strangers & Pilgrims in this World

1 Peter 1:1-9

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ²who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor **when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for **you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

In 1 Peter 2:11-12, Note how Peter addresses the Christian:

¹¹**Dear friends, I urge you, as *aliens* and *strangers* in the world,** to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

¹²Live 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.

Origins of Halloween from History.com:

Halloween, celebrated each year on October 31, is a mix of ancient ***Celtic practices, Catholic*** and ***Roman religious rituals*** and ***European folk traditions*** that **blended together** over time to create the holiday we know today...

From Rob Moll's article "Halloween: A Christian Perspective – WSJ – Last Friday

"...Halloween, also known as "All Hallows Eve," and All Saints Day (on Nov. 1) offer a rare opportunity in the Christian calendar to reflect on death..."

"...If learning to die must begin during life, there's no better time to start than Halloween and All Saints Day..."

The American philosopher **Henry David Thoreau** suggested ***that we should live so simply that if an enemy overtook our town, we could walk out of the gate empty-handed and without anxiety.*** It is a reminder to us as Christians that we should travel light, remembering that this world is not our home.

God bless Bill & Amanda Gates for spending his life now giving away his billions. **God bless Warren Buffet for giving his billions to the Bill & Amanda Gates Foundation.** They know that they are going to die and they know their wealth is far, far, more than a wise person would leave all of it to his children. They know the world is hurting and can use all the help it can receive. They know that this world has been especially good to them so they want to give back. They are focused on death. Hopefully they know Christ for all the giving in the world cannot buy salvation.

1. **Shortly before he died, King David prayed, "We are aliens and pilgrims before you" (1 Chronicles 29:15).**
2. **In discussing Old Testament heroes, the writer of Hebrews 11:13 called them "strangers and pilgrims on the earth."** He said they desired a better country and were looking for a city that God had prepared for them (verse 16); therefore God was not ashamed to be called their God.

¹³All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; ***they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.*** And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

¹⁴**People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.**

¹⁵If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.

¹⁶**Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

3. The Bible says, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." (1 Peter 2:11)

"Sojourners" – paroikos - having a *home near*.—foreigner, sojourn, stranger.

"Pilgrims" – parepidemos – an *alien alongside*, that is, a *resident foreigner*.—pilgrim, stranger.

4. **Keep Your Eye on the Ball – 1 Peter 1:13**

"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

5. **We should prayerfully follow current events and respond as wisely as possible to the events of this life.** But always remember--***this world is not our home; we're just "a passing through."***

When you hurt so bad that you prefer to just die and go be with the Lord, you know that you are a 'stranger and sojourner' down here.

– "Christians are not citizens of earth trying to get to heaven but citizens of heaven making their way through this world." - **Vance Havner**