

Sojourners and Pilgrims

I. Introduction

- A. Scripture uses a number of figures and metaphors to paint portraits for us of what being Christ's disciples is about. Among these is the phrase "sojourners and pilgrims" used in reference to Christians. Consider some things Scripture teaches connected to this theme. **1 Peter 2:11-12**

II. The Christian's Citizenship

- A. The word "sojourner" refers to the fact that this world is not our home. Our time on earth is a temporary pilgrimage. The faithful Christian's *permanent* citizenship is in heaven. Christ's followers live for far more than the here and now. **Philippians 3:20; 2 Corinthians 4:18**

III. The Christian's Affection

- A. Since our time on earth is a temporary sojourning, it is fitting for our affection to be set on things above, where our citizenship is. **Colossians 3:1-2**
- B. While the Lord's servants face hardships during our earthly pilgrimage, hope is gained by looking beyond temporal things. Faithful Christians lay up treasure in heaven, not here on earth. *Song 213, verse 2 & chorus*
- C. If our affection is set on things above, our primary focus will not be on material possessions, temporal hobbies, and the like. Instead, our focus will be on that which is fitting for those whose life on earth is but a sojourning. **Matthew 13:22**

IV. The Christian's Holiness

- A. One whose affection is set on things above will be far different from the majority of people in the world. Since this world is not our home, sojourners and pilgrims must refrain from the *worldliness* that most people are given to. **1 Peter 2:11b; 1 John 2:15-16**
- B. Sojourners and pilgrims live in the world, but are not of the world. Christ's followers are set apart from the darkness of the world for God's glory. **John 17:15-17; Philippians 2:14-15**

V. The Christian's Influence

- A. The differences of those who don't belong to the world are noticed by those who *do* belong to the world. These differences are not something to be ashamed of, but can lead those in darkness to the light. **Philippians 2:15; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12**

VI. The Christian's Suffering

- A. During the Christian's temporal sojourning, suffering is assured. **1 Peter 2:12; 4:4, 12**
- B. This should be expected for people who don't belong to the world. Just like Jesus was hated by the world, so too are His followers. Just as Jesus *overcame*, so too can His followers. **John 15:18-19**

VII. Conclusion

- A. While our time on earth has great significance, this world is not our permanent home, but a temporary dwelling place. May we not be conformed to the world or live for the world, but live as God's holy possession during our pilgrimage on earth. **1 Peter 2:11-12**