

1 Peter 2:11-12

Hope in the storm

Aliens and Strangers



~“*alien*” is to use it to refer to someone who actually is not a citizen of this country, but has taken up residence here. An illegal alien is someone from another country who has crossed the border and resides here while not belonging here legally.

+When I visit Denmark with my wife Karen, we are in the country of her birth, but I know I don’t really belong there. Where I belong is where I have my citizenship –here in the USA.



~“*stranger*”, *Have you every experienced being completely alone in a crowd? If you are human, you have! An experience in Minneapolis illustrated to me how hard it is to be a total stranger *anywhere!*

Yet Peter calls the followers of Jesus into a uncomfortable relationship with the world at large. We belong to a Kingdom within a Kingdom - the the Kingdom of Light that exists with the Kingdom of Darkness but which oppose each other, sometime vehemently! All the nations of the earth actually belong in the Kingdom of Darkness! The nations have lost the knowledge of their Creator/God, through deception and the mythmaking. But as Jesus said, “*men loved darkness rather than light*”. They enjoy foolishness where it seems to them that they maintain control of their own lives. It is not that they can’t believe, but that they won’t believe!



This is unfamiliar territory for biblical Christianity in the USA. The country has a strong historical link to Christianity which has translated into a sense of societal respect for Christianity for the last 400 years. But that is quickly eroding for a number of reasons.

~The rise of godless Marxism under the guise of the “progressive” social justice youth movement!



~The use of sex for political ends. **Philippians 3:19**, - “*whose god is their belly and whose glory is in their shame (literally – in their sex organs)*”. *Destruction* begins in this life as these poor, misinformed people heap soul-eating scar upon emotional scar upon themselves and others, and it all ends so badly for them!

One of the most telling lines in our text this morning is “*which war against the soul*”! The misuse of sex turn the human soul into a totally malfunctioning mess! The unrestrained anger in social media has source causes! But we are not to participate in outrage culture that so defines our society these days. As Christ-followers, we are to be aliens and strangers in the world system! People can only know that we belong to Jesus by our sweet reasonableness in the midst of the storm of madness that rages around us!



One day we will sing a new song to Him who sits on the throne - a choir of saints, and angels, and the creatures of heaven that are so vast that we will sound like a great waterfall [**Rev. 4:2-8; Rev. 19:6**]

THAT is our world! This world is ours too, and it is beautiful, and there are many beautiful and wonderful things about it,.. but it is so very temporary! That place where God lives is the one that is the real place! * As I mentioned earlier, Denmark a nice place to visit, but I want to live here, not there! But even here is not my real home. I am a citizen in yet another country!

The sights and sounds and smells of heaven will be beyond description! We will celebrate the God of heaven! And we will never tire of it, never, in a billion years and beyond! There will be many responsibilities also, for we will rule and reign with Jesus.



Listen, the bottom line of the apostle's teaching here is that the followers of Jesus are different. We are to stand out. We want *Jesus* to be recognized! Like John the Baptist said “*He must increase, and I must decrease*”! Do you see how different we are? No one behaves this way but true Christ-followers who take the directives of Christ and His apostles seriously! The focus of our existence is always our fearless, peerless leader, and He will remain so for all eternity! So we better be practicing for eternity in this life!

