



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 20.0

March 6
2014

Our Stay on Earth

“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth” (1 Peter 1:17 NASB).

The world wants us to believe that we came from it, and we are not leaving it. We are told that we came from nothing, and we are returning to nothing, so the point of life in an honest assessment is nothing.

Scripture, however, says the exact opposite. God’s revelation of the true nature of reality is available to us in His Word, which tells us that we came **into** the world as refugees (or tenants), and we are **leaving** the world with one of two permanent citizenships. *“For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope”* (1 Chronicles 29:15). David was right to say there is no hope in the world, because from the planet’s perspective, we are born, we live a time, and we die. That is it. When we come into this world, we are given a place in it regardless of our inclinations. Where we are born determines our citizenship. Many of us automatically become citizens in one of earth’s many nations. This citizenship is not permanent, because it ends when we die. Because of this, worldly citizenship is actually more akin to tenancy with the world as a great big apartment complex, if you’ll entertain the metaphor. Some of us find ourselves in affordable housing, while others enter plush, luxury penthouses. As we live, we are given opportunities to gain better accommodations in the world, often by investing our energies deeper into the world’s priorities. We all attempt to survive in it and make our way in it. We strive to make a better life for ourselves

and our families. For many, this becomes their sole purpose, their reality—to create an enduring place of comfort in the world—a stable residence for family, business, legacy, and empire.

As Believers, however, we openly confess we are strangers and exiles on the earth (Hebrews 11:13). We are to remain keenly aware of our identity as tenants on this planet, acknowledging it as short-term lodging for the duration of our lives. Earth is not our home.

While here, people may claim to be Germans, Americans, or Chinese, and they can be very patriotic and very proud of their citizenships, but no matter how nationalistic they are, they are really only citizens of Heaven or citizens of hell. All world nationalities boil down to these two residencies, regardless of whether we are Kings, Prime Ministers, CEOs, or restaurant dishwashers—we are all migrants here, passing through, waiting to receive our appointed, permanent residences. What determines this final citizenship? Is it hours of paperwork or ethical acts? Is it our usefulness, our importance? Perhaps a VIP ticket? No. The one thing that determines our residence is simply our encounter here on earth with *“Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God”* (1 Corinthians 1:25) in the Gospel (Good News). While tenants here in worldly slums or marble mansions, we observe Christ’s call: *“follow me!”* (John 1:43) Do we obey the call, confess and repent, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, receiving our inherited eternal citizenship in Heaven, or do we disobey His call and inherit a permanent citizenship with the unclean outcasts, outside the walls of the Heavenly City (Revelation 22:15)?

As Believers, *“our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 3:20).

Berean Christian Fellowship

Searching the Scriptures Daily



Berean Christian Fellowship

10881 261st Ave NW
Zimmerman, MN 55398

(2 miles east of Hwy 169 at Zimmerman stoplight on CR4)

Berean Christian Fellowship is a small Bible church modeled after the church seen in Scripture, which was rooted solely in the Word of God. We search the Scriptures daily for the nourishment that only the Truth, the Life, and the Way can bring in these unstable times as we eagerly await the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We share as our perspective the approach of the first Bereans, who *"received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true"* (Acts 17:11).

Come, worship the Lord every Sunday, singing with us timeless hymns, praising our timeless Savior, Who is *"the same yesterday and today and forever"* (Hebrews 13:8). Also join us for edifying spiritual teaching from the Word of God in our Bible Study.

Worship Service: Sunday, 10am.

Bible Study: Thursday, 7pm.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"

(Matthew 4:4b)

Berean Lamp Ministries

For the Body of Christ

Berean Lamp Ministries seeks to:

1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Cor 12:12-31).

2. Minister to non-believers; be a witness for Christ and a testimony to His Body in the world.

Berean Lamp Ministries is a place for the body of Christ to come for encouragement and spiritual sustenance in the face of our swiftly changing world that is rapidly abandoning God. We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

- Pastor Scott Moller



www.bereanlamp.org

The Good News of Jesus

"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
(Romans 10:9)

Before God, we are all GUILTY of sin. Whether we BELIEVE it or not, our SINS can NEVER remain CONCEALED, because the thoughts and intents of our heart are KNOWN to God. Everything is EXPOSED to God, and we must all give ACCOUNT on Judgment Day. Therefore, the only option available to us is to CONFESS our sin, REPENT of our transgression, and obtain mercy at the hands of Jesus Christ, Who will INTERCEDE for us before the Heavenly Father.

If we do not, then our GUILT remains on our head, and we must bear the punishment without the intercession of Jesus Christ that REMOVES the guilt of our sin. That punishment is separation from God in hell, which is what Jesus ENDURED in His death on the CROSS when He took the sins of all MANKIND upon Himself and bore our guilt and the guilt of the whole world before God.

Thankfully for BELIEVERS, Jesus rose again, entered into Heaven, and INTERCEDES for those who accept His ATONEMENT for their sins.

Believers have thus PARTED with the guilt of their sin before God. If we FORSAKE our sin and accept Jesus' substitution of Himself in our place on "death row," we should be confident that we are no longer deemed GUILTY before God, and we will be with Him in ETERNITY because Jesus has been made the Truth, the Life, and the Way to God.

Jesus is God's mercy towards us, so *"that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16b). Even so, Amen.