



Berean Christian Fellowship

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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 for 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).

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