

THE SOJOURNERS

1. Text: I Peter 1:17-19
2. Me walking through Aleppo, Syria, or Indian villages.
3. Peter affirms one of the most essential, basic principles of the Christian life here in verse 17. Unfortunately, we don't think enough about it.

I. **The Principle**

1. NKJV has "throughout your stay here." The word is sojourn.
2. The word is translated by words like visitor, stranger, foreigner, alien.
3. The word in Greek refers to one staying in a place where he is not a citizen, being in a foreign country, strange land.
4. Word pilgrim means to visit or stay a short time some place. Sojourner has within it staying a longer time, but both lack permanency and brevity of stay. We'll make no distinction here.
5. Great example: The Jews. Idea rooted deeply in Old Testament. Often patriarchs are called sojourners (Abraham in Egypt; Jacob in Haran)
6. Fascinating verse: Exodus 12:40. It says Israel's sojourn in Egypt was 430 years. They lived there four centuries but it was not their homeland, their land of promise!
7. Point: We as God's people are sojourning here; this is not our true homeland.

II. **Passages On This Theme**

1. Philippians 3:20 Our citizenship is in heaven from whence we wait for the Savior.
2. John 14:2 "I go to prepare a place for you in my Father's house."
3. I Peter 1:4 speaks of "an inheritance reserved in heaven for you."
4. I Peter 2:11 I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly desires.
5. I John 2:15 Love not the world nor the things in the world.
6. Matthew 6:19-21 Don't lay up treasures on earth, but heaven.
7. Colossians 3:1-2 Seek things above and not things on the earth.
8. I Timothy 6:7 We brought nothing into this world; we'll leave with nothing.
9. Ephesians 2:19 No longer strangers and foreigners? Context shows he's writing of Gentiles being fellow citizens in household of God.

III. **Practical Applications**

1. Affections. What do we truly love and care about?
2. Accumulations. What do we have? Is it really that important?
3. Children. Preparing socially, physically, educationally, eternally?
4. Associations. Which friends will help us on our sojourn here?
5. Priorities. What matters most?
6. Problems. Seen in new light. Rich fool.
7. Preparation. What is the whole point of life here?
8. Stewardship. Who really owns what we take care of?
9. Status. Does it really matter what position we reach?
10. Materialism. It can seem so foolish to a pilgrim.

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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