

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Douglas' mother, Mr. and Mrs. Hadley, Mrs. Kelly Hall, Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, Mrs. Lowery, Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Siota, Mr. Smith, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website:
www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com.
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Temporary Residence

By Derek Long

If you have lived in very many places throughout your life, you understand how it is easy to view the place you live as a temporary residence. If you thought you were only going to live in a place for a short time, you might be less likely to put down roots in the community, etc. The Bible calls upon us to view our physical life as though it is simply a temporary residence and look for something greater.

Abraham serves as an Old Testament example of someone who saw his earthly existence as a temporary residence of sorts. Hebrews 11:8-10 says, "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Abraham was called to leave his homeland and go to a land. God promised to give the land to him and his descendants but Abraham did not divert his focus to acquiring the land of Canaan. Abraham's primary focus remained on a heavenly city. Hebrews 11:13-16 says, "These all died in faith, not having

received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.” Abraham realized his truly homeland should be heaven rather than Canaan.

The New Testament speak of our existence in this life in terms of dwelling in a tent. Peter viewed himself as dwelling in a tent he shortly must put off. 2 Peter 1:13-14 says, “Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.” 2 Corinthians 5:1, 4 teaches us we all our really simply dwelling in a tent presently, “For we know that if our earthy house, the tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens ... For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.” The image of a tent is our physical body is simply a temporary residence. If one was to contrast a tent with a building, a building would be a more permanent structure. As Christians, we need to be longing for a time when we can leave the physical body (this tent) and go to our eternal reward (a building from God).

The fact the Bible calls us sojourners and pilgrims should remind us we are simply temporary residents here. 1

Peter 2:11 says, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.”

Sojourners and pilgrims are on the way somewhere else and simply passing through. Philippians 3:20 reminds us where we ought to be headed. It says, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Our true home as a Christian is not in this life but in heaven.

How should realizing this life is a temporary residence impact us?

- Do not put down roots. It is important we do not lay up treasure on earth but instead to lay up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:21).
- Do what we know to do today. The fact life here is short and limited we need to make the most of the opportunities we are given to do the things God commands us to day (James 4:14-17).
- Do not become distracted with the care of this world (Luke 8:13).
- Look forward to and eagerly wait for a time when we will leave this life and go on to our reward (Romans 8:23-25; Philippians 1:21-23). We should be excited about the Lord’s return if we realize we are only temporarily here (Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 3:12).