

“Strangers & Pilgrims”
Hebrews 11:13

Introduction:

1. As We Continue Our Series:
 - On Sunday Nights:
 - On The Great Progress Of Victory:
 - That We Can Have As Christians:
 - I'd Like For Us To Turn In Our Bibles:
 - To Hebrews 11!
 - Which Is A Chapter Well Known:
 - For Its Explanation Of - As Well As:
 - Its Examples Of:
 - Faith - Even Known As The:
 - “Hall Of Faith!”
2. And - To Begin Tonight:
 - I'd Like For Us To Read Through:
 - The First 12 Verses!
 - 11:1-12 - “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. / 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. / 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear!”
 - “4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. / 5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. / 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. / 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith!”
 - “8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. / 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: / 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. / 11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. / 12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable!”
3. Now - As We Just Read Through:
 - The Names Of These Early Patriarchs & Matriarch:
 - I Think We Could See That:
 - Though They Lived *In* This World:
 - They Were Clearly:
 - Not *Of* This World!
 - And - Even Though:
 - At Times - They Struggled With:
 - The Temptation To Be:
 - Something *Like* The World:
 - Their Faith Made Them Different *Than* This World!
4. And - In 11:13:
 - That Difference Is Summed Up For Us!
 - In That - “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth!”
 - This - I Believe - Is The Next Stage:
 - In Fighting Against Worldliness:
 - In Our Lives & In Our Church!
 - In Faith:
 - Confessing That:
 - We Are “Strangers & Pilgrims On The Earth!”
5. Now - If You Remember:

- We Spent Some Time Looking At:
 - What The “World” Is - From:
 - The Standpoint Of Scripture:
 - That Is One Of Our Greatest Enemies!
- The “World” Is Not Primarily:
 - Something Physical - It Is:
 - Something Spiritual!
 - And - The “World” Is Not Primarily:
 - Something Visible - It Is:
 - Something Invisible!
 - The “World” Is A Fallen Place:
 - That Is Dark & Dangerous:
 - For The Souls Of Men!
- It Is Something Like A Monster:
 - That Will Do Whatever It Can:
 - To Draw You:
 - Further Away From:
 - God And His Will!
 - It Always Seeks To:
 - Capture Your Appetites:
 - Through The “Lust Of The Flesh!”
 - Captivate Your Affections:
 - Through The “Lust Of The Eyes!”
 - And - Cultivate Your Ambitions:
 - Through The “Pride Of Life!”
- This Old World:
 - Is Not A Friend To Your Soul!

6. And So - When You Enter Into:
- The Life Of Faith By:
 - Turning To & Trusting In:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ - And:
 - His Work On The Cross For You!
 - This World Is No Longer:
 - Your Home! And So Now:
 - You Can & You Must:
 - Resist The World And:
 - Its Influence Over You!
 - By God’s Grace & Strength!

7. And - The First Stage:
- Of This Resistance Is:
 - Remembering That:
 - You Are Now:
 - Sent To This World:
 - By Jesus Himself!

- We Saw This In:
 - Jesus’ Prayer To His Father:
 - In John 17:18 - “As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world!”

8. The Second Stage:
- Of This Resistance Is:
 - Pursuing Biblical:
 - Separation From This World!
 - And - We Can Do This:
 - By Keeping Our Glory In & Our Focus On:
 - The Cross Of Christ!
 - Which We Considered:
 - Last Week From:
 - Galatians 6:14 - “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus

Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world!"

9. And So - The Third Stage:
 - Of Our Resistance To This World:
 - Is Now Living As:
 - Strangers & Pilgrims - Or:
 - Strangers & Sojourners:
 - In This World!
 - Just Like Those Men & Women Of Faith:
 - Who Came Before Us!
 - Again - Hebrews 11:13:
 - "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth!"
10. Now - Even Though These Two Descriptions:
 - Of People Of Faith:
 - Can Often Be Used Interchangeably:
 - There Is A Difference Between Them!
 - The Word "Stranger" Describes:
 - *Who You Are* - Whereas:
 - The Word "Pilgrim" Describes:
 - *What You Do!*
 - To Be A "Stranger" On The Earth:
 - Describes Your:
 - Condition In This World / Life!
 - Whereas - To Be A "Pilgrim" On The Earth:
 - Describes Your:
 - Course In This World / Life!
11. And Now - Your Faith:
 - In Christ - Will Change:
 - The Very Fabric Of Your Relationship:
 - With This World!
 - And So - As We Find In:
 - This Verse:
 - Faith Will First Change:
1. ***Your Condition In This World:***
 - As A "Stranger" To This World!
 - Again - This Word Describes:
 - *Who You Now Are* - And:
 - The *Condition* You Now Have:
 - In This World!
 - And - Your Condition:
 - Is Different Than:
 - What It Once Was!
 - If You'll Turn With Me Now:
 - To Ephesians 2 - We Can See The Transition:
 - In Our Relationship With This World:
 - Before Christ & After Christ!
 - When You Were "Without Christ" - And:
 - Now That You Are:
 - "In Christ!"
 - Ephesians 2:12-13 - "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: / But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ!"
 - And - What Does It Mean To Be "Made Nigh?"
 - 2:19 - "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God!"
 - In These Verses:
 - We Find Some More Words:

- That Can Help Us Understand More:
 - About Our Condition In This World As Strangers!
- To Be An “Alien” - As Found In 2:12:
 - Means That You Are From:
 - A Different People!
 - Before Christ:
 - You Were A Different Kind Of Person:
 - And Even Excluded:
 - From The People & Family Of God!
 - But Now - In Christ:
 - You Are A Different Kind Of Person:
 - From The World!
 - And So - Even Though:
 - You Might Look Similar To:
 - Everyone Else In This World:
 - In Truth - You Are A “New Creature” Altogether!
- But Then - To Be A “Stranger” - Also Found In 2:12:
 - Which Is The Same Word We Found:
 - Back In Hebrews 11:13!
 - It Means That You Are From:
 - A Different Place!
 - Before Christ:
 - You Were From A Different Place:
 - Than The People & Family Of God!
 - But Now - In Christ:
 - You Are From A Different Place:
 - Than The People Of This World!
 - Which Is Why In 2:19 - It Says That “Ye Are No More Strangers!”
 - Because What You Once Were To Heaven:
 - Now, You Are To This World!
 - A Stranger!
- Another Word We Find In These Verses:
 - That Is Related To Your Condition In This World:
 - Is Also There In 2:19 - “Foreigner!”
 - The World Translated “Foreigner” Here:
 - Describes Someone Who Is:
 - Lives In Another Place:
 - Other Than His Home:
 - But Without All The Rights Of A Citizen!
 - And So - To Be A “Foreigner” Means:
 - That You Have A Different Possession:
 - In This World!
 - Before Christ:
 - You Could Only Possess Things:
 - Down Here!
 - But Now - In Christ:
 - You Have A Possession & An Inheritance:
 - In Heaven Itself!
- And That Is Why - Also In 2:19:
 - Paul Tells Us That Now - In Christ:
 - We Are “Fellow-Citizens With The Saints, And Of The Household Of God!”
 - This Means That We Even Have:
 - Different Politics:
 - Than We Once Did In This World!
 - As A Citizen Of Heaven:
 - Our Primary Focus Is On:
 - The Things That Are Above!
 - Not Just The Things Of This World!

- All This Is What It Means:
 - To Be A Stranger:
 - On This Earth - As A Christian!
 - This Is What Our Condition:
 - In This World:
 - Is & Is To Be Like!
 - And - A Good Example Of This:
 - Is Abraham Himself!
 - Who - After Living In & Around The Land Promised To Him By The Lord:
 - For 62 Years - Only Then:
 - Did He Ever Have A Piece Of Land To Call His Own!
- Because - In Genesis 23:3-4:
 - After His Dear Wife Sarah Passed From This Earth:
 - We Are Told That - “Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, / I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a buryingplace with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight!”
- So - After 62 Years:
 - Of Sojourning In The Land That:
 - Was To Be His Own:
 - He Was Still A Stranger!
 - He Was From A Different People:
 - And From A Different Place!
 - He Had A Different Possession:
 - And Different Politics!
 - And - The Only Possession He Ended Up With That He Could Call His Own:
 - Was A Cave - Which Was To Be His Wife & His Own Tomb!
- Now - From The Perspective Of This World:
 - Abraham Might Have Been A Failure!
 - But From His Perspective:
 - It Was A Matter Of Faith!
 - So - He Made His Confession:
 - To The People Of The Land:
 - That He Was Still - Even After 62 Years - A Stranger Among Them!
- This Too Needs To Be:
 - Our Perspective & Confession!
 - We Are Strangers:
 - On The Earth!
 - But - Our Faith Should Also Change:

2. ***Your Course In This World:***

- As A “Pilgrim” In This World!
 - Again - This Word From Hebrews 11:13:
 - Describes What You Now Do - And:
 - Your Pathway:
 - In This world!
 - Another Word For “Pilgrim” Is:
 - “Sojourner” - Which Is Also What:
 - Abraham Called Himself:
 - Before The Sons Of Heth!
 - And - A “Sojourner” Is Someone:
 - Who Is Always On The Move!
 - And - The Course Of Abraham’s Life Of Faith:
 - Is A Good Example Of This!
 - In Fact - You Can Trace Abraham’s Entire Life:
 - Based On His Movement:
 - From One Place To Another!
 - Lets Turn Back To Genesis:
 - Where:

- We First Find - In 12:4:
 - Abraham Leaving His Home In Haran:
 - Where He Had Moved With His Father:
 - From Ur Of The Chaldees:
 - Earlier In His Life!
 - And So - From There:
 - His Journey Continues!
 - “So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran!”
 - And Where Does He Go?
- 12:5 - To The Land Of Canaan:
 - “And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came!”
 - And - While In Canaan:
 - He Moves Around The Land:
 - That Was Promised To Him:
 - By The Lord! So That:
- In 12:6-9 - We Are Told:
 - “And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. / And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him! / And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. / And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south!”
 - But - When Trouble Comes:
 - Abraham Continues To Move! So That:
- In 12:10 - He Even Makes His Way:
 - Down To Egypt - “And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land!”
 - And - This Is Only The Beginning:
 - Of Abraham’s Nomadic Life!
 - He Is Always On The Move:
 - Sojourning In This World:
 - Even In The Land Promised To Him By God!
- Until Abraham Himself Dies:
 - In 25:8-9 - And Is Buried:
 - In The Same Cave He Buried:
 - Sarah - Which Was His Only True Possession:
 - In This World!
 - Which - In Many Ways:
 - Is Symbolic Of The Only Possession:
 - We Might Have:
 - When We Leave This World!
 - And - Even This:
 - Is Not Guaranteed!
 - So - What Abraham Was:
 - We Are Now To Be:
 - In This World!
 - Sojourners! Pilgrims!
 - In The Course Of Our Lives!
 - Ready & Willing:
 - To Go Wherever:
 - God Wants Us To Go!
 - Because - As The Song Goes:
 - “This World Is Not My Home, I’m Just A-Passing Through!”
 - This Is What It Looked Like:
 - For Abraham - As A Pilgrim:

- In This World!
- What Should It Look Like:
 - For Us - As Christians & As The Church?
 - In Much The Same Way:
- The Course Of Our Lives:
 - May Include Scattering:
 - Throughout This World!
 - Even As Peter Writes In His First Epistle:
 - To - "The Strangers Scattered Throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, And Bithynia!"
 - He Describes The Church As:
 - "Strangers Scattered!"
 - This Is Often:
 - The Lot Of Believers:
 - In This World:
 - Because We Are Pilgrims!
 - This Is What We Do!
- The Course Of Our Lives:
 - May Also Include The Shadows:
 - Of This World!
 - As David Once Said Before The Lord:
 - In 1 Chronicles 29:15:
 - "For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding!"
 - Our Lives In This World:
 - Are But A Shadow!
 - Quick & Fleeting Away!
 - Because The Pilgrims Life Is Often A Hard Life!
 - Which Means That:
- The Course Of Our Lives:
 - May Also Include Much Sorrow:
 - In This World!
 - In Genesis 47:9:
 - When Jacob Appeared Before Pharaoh:
 - He Confessed To Him:
 - "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage!"
 - This Too Is Often:
 - The Lot Of Believers:
 - In This World - Because:
 - We Are Not Of This World!
 - "Few & Evil" May Be Our Days!
 - "Evil" In The Sense Of:
 - Difficult & Sorrowful!
- So - In The Course Of Our Lives:
 - As Christian Pilgrims:
 - Sojourning In This World:
 - We Can Expect:
 - Scattering & Shadows & Sorrow!
 - But - What Is In Store For Us?
 - The Opposite!
 - Instead Of Being Scattered:
 - The Lord Will - One Day:
 - Gather All Of His Pilgrims:
 - Unto Himself!
 - Instead Of Shadows:
 - The Lord Will - One Day:
 - Bring Us Into His Glorious Light:

- Amd Into Heaven Itself! And:
- Instead Of Sorrows:
 - The Lord Will - One Day:
 - Bring Us Into The Fulness:
 - Of His Joy!
- Because - One Day:
 - Those Who Were Strangers & Sojourners:
 - In This World:
 - Will Be So No Longer!
 - Because - We Will Be:
 - Finally & Forever:
 - At Home!

Conclusion:

1. So - Now:
 - We Need To Confess:
 - These Truths:
 - About Who We Are:
 - In This World - And:
 - About What We Are Doing:
 - In This World!
 - We Are Strangers!
 - This Is Our True Condition!
 - And - We Are Sojourners / Pilgrims!
 - This Is Our True Course!
2. This Is What Abraham Confessed:
 - To The Sons Of Heth!
 - This Is What Jacob Confessed:
 - To Pharaoh!
 - This Is What David Confessed:
 - To God!
 - And - This Is What We Need To:
 - Confess Before The World!
 - Openly Admit That:
 - We Are Strangers & Pilgrims!
2. But - Not Just:
 - With Our Words!
 - As Matthew Henry Once Put It:
 - “Both Their Lips And Their Lives Confessed Their Present Condition!”
 - May This One Day:
 - Be Said Of Us!

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