



## Key Phrase #5

# THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

*Home.* Everyone longs for a home. Home is more than just a place where you eat, sleep, and are sheltered from the elements. It is a place of comfort, of being accepted and loved. It is a place of protection from enemies. So it may surprise you that Scripture teaches us that this world is not our home. As Paul says to the Philippian Church,

*20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 3:20)*

Not only that, but Paul speaks about the “world” as a temporal place that includes people indifferent or hostile to God, with their minds focused on earthly things. It encompasses corruption and evil.

*18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. (Phil 3:18,19)*

Our place of permanent residency, however, is not here on earth, but our eternal home in heaven. Heaven is a place created by God to be inhabited by His sons and daughters. It is a place of eternal purity, joy, purpose, acceptance, and love by and for God and all of His children. Its values and wisdom are perfect and eternal because they are designed by God Himself. This home is where God’s children reign with Him over God’s Creation for all of eternity. Heaven is the ultimate dwelling place of every child of God, the place we were created for.

To get to THAT home, however, we have to journey through THIS world. The book of Hebrews lists the challenges met and overcome by the faith of many who were, “looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” Like Abraham, they all left the security of living according to the “wisdom” of this world in order to attain the glory of the promised Eternal Home. Jesus warned that the path to home accepted by the vast majority of people was indeed smoother and comfortable, but ultimately brought only destruction. On the other hand, He promised that the road to heaven would be increasingly difficult to travel with a narrow gate that only a few would find. Sadly, because it is so much easier and the rewards are more readily tangible to our senses, most people make earth their one and only home.

There is great danger in making this world our home, in looking to its values and its ways of thinking and of behavior. The Book of Revelation describes the majority of the world’s population as those “who dwell on the earth”. They have made this world their home, their place of security, their place of reward. In spite of all of God’s efforts to open their eyes, they love their darkness and end up embracing the deception, even to the point of their own pitiful destruction.

The world is undeniably attractive. 2 Peter 2:18-19 warns us that the world will do everything possible to “entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption.”

1 John 2:15 tells us not to be deceived by these enticements, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

James 4:4 strongly admonishes us, "do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

This world does everything possible to present itself to us as our home, our place of rest, safety and pleasure. Yet God warns us that believing its lie will prevent us from experiencing His love and indeed cause us to make ourselves God's enemy. That cannot end happily.

The present world is passing away even now. Living in this transient world, one must not love it, become conformed to its ways, or fall in love with its godless "wisdom". Instead one must live a godly life, avoiding the snares of the "present evil age" from which Christ's death has set his people free ( Galatians 1:4 ). A believer may look forward to the new world, "a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13).

True Christians throughout church history have had to make the choice to either live for the world or to live for God. The stakes were high and the options were usually clear-cut. We live in a time in this country where the stakes are not so obvious and the cost not so apparent. Yet we too have to choose whether we will make the World or Heaven our home. Jesus promised that we can only live for one and that if we deny the pulls of this World we would indeed "have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). He prayed to His Almighty Father in John 17:15, "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil." Father God will certainly answer Jesus' prayer to keep His faithful children safe in the journey to our true eternal home as we put our trust and obedience in His faithfulness, love, and power to do so.

### Discussion Outline

- Review the Key Phrase
- Take time to ponder, pray, and answer the following questions.
  - If I really believed this (key phrase) how would it change my life?
    - In what ways am I walking in this truth and in what ways do I struggle?
    - What tensions would this solve? What tensions may it create?
  - Find a Scripture or Biblical Principle that reflects this truth.
- Write down any thoughts you need to change and any steps you can take to walk in this truth?
- Pray for one another.

### Additional Questions to spark some thoughts:

- **What does the Bible refer to when it uses the term "The World"?**
- **If we believed that this world was not our home how would we live our lives differently?**
- **How do we measure our lives to make sure that we are living for eternity**
- **Living in light of eternity doesn't mean that we neglect the reality of our life here on earth. Can we become unbalanced the other way? ie. "so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good"**
- **What obstacles did they have to overcome and how?**



