

A Traveler's Guide for the Christian Pilgrims

February 3, 2019

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

1 Pet 1:1-12

Pastor Mark Turner

Peter wrote to believers in a hostile culture. We are increasingly living in what many describe as a hostile culture. We can learn from Peter's letter to believers.

Stats: US population ~327million: 60% (150mil) post-Christian=no contact w/ Church. Tri-County ~761K 28% post-Christian=213,000 people with no contact w/ the Gospel.

Are these true? Stuart Murray - Church After Christendom

- from the center to margins: In Christendom, the Christian story and the churches were central, but in post-Christendom these are marginal.
- from majority to minority: In Christendom, Christians comprised the majority but in post-Christendom we are a minority.
- from settlers to sojourners: In Christendom Christians felt at home in a culture shaped by their story, but in post-Christendom we are aliens, exiles, and pilgrims in a culture where we no longer feel at home.
- from privilege to plurality: In Christendom Christians enjoyed many privileges, but in post-Christendom we are one community among many in a plural society.
- from control to witness: In Christendom churches could exert control over society, but in post-Christendom we exercise influence only through witnessing to our story and its implications.
- from maintenance to mission: In Christendom the emphasis was on supposedly maintaining a supposedly Christian status quo, but in post-Christendom it is on mission within a contested environment.
- from institution to movement: In Christendom churches operated mainly in institutional mode, but in post-Christendom we must become again a Christian movement.

If so then we are elect exiles of the dispersion: Mt 28:19-20

Peter's Message:

Peter writes to elect exiles and sojourners 1:1; 2:11

- Cultural – Roman colonization Act 18:2
- Spiritual – 1:3-5: our new birth has made us now foreigners & aliens in our own country Jn 1:12-13
- We are Sojourners - 1:11-12 with a mission 3:8-12
- Peter models Jeremiah's Letter: Jer 29:1-14

So What?

- So the changes in our nation are God's providence... right where He calls us... We can serve on the margins of our new culture... in fact we can and should be an attractional community of believers who live by the truth of our identity in Christ! Peter is equipping us to GO back into the world... into our classrooms, boardrooms, factories, playgrounds, neighborhoods as men and women who like our Savior before us, are those who are marginalized, but we are WORLD CHANGING!

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