

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
LIVING FOR JESUS AS PILGRIMS IN THIS WORLD

1 Peter 2:11-12

Introduction: Last Sunday we looked at 1 Peter 2:9-10 – our identity as Christians: God’s people, called out of the darkness of unbelief, spiritual death, and sinful rebellion against God into His marvelous light (Christ). For what purpose? That we should praise / extol God’s excellencies. And how are we to do that?

First, as His priests, in the corporate worship of the church (2:5). But also in our daily lives in and before the world that needs Jesus. That’s the underlying, unifying theme of 2:11 - 3:17.

And **2:11-12** serves as a heading or summation of that section.

1. As God’s people in Christ, what are we in this world?

We are “strangers and aliens.”

This is how Peter began his letter – 1:1-2.

Transferred from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of God’s beloved Son (Col.1:13), we are now citizens of heaven (Phil.3:20).

What the Hebrew patriarchs were in Canaan – aliens & pilgrims (Heb.11:8-16), we are also (13:13-14), looking for the city to come, whose Architect & Builder is God.

We still live here (for now) – thanking to God & worshiping Him.

But *HERE* is **not** our destination, not our first allegiance, not the source of our highest joys and greatest longings – for which we are supremely grateful.

And we want others to receive what God has given us!

2. What does that mean for our relationship with the world?

It means opposition and conflict – “antithesis.”

The world we still live in, but no longer belong to, is not neutral.

In its rebellion against God it rejected Christ, who said to His disciples: “If the world hated Me, it will hate you.” John 15:18,19

We should expect **conflict** then:

- (a) within ourselves, because sinful desires & old habits remain – and wage war against our souls. (The devil wants you back.)
- (b) with the surrounding world (“Gentiles” meaning non-Christians) - with opposition to our Christ reaching the point of slander & worse (“fiery ordeal” 4:12).

We live before a watching world that needs our Christ & the Gospel, but is disposed to despise its messengers without a fair hearing.

3. Then how are we to proclaim our great God to the world?

First, by living godly lives in it (2:11-3:14).

Slander is to be answered, not with angry rebuttal, but with lives of good deeds that demonstrate the power of the Gospel & the life of the Kingdom – as illustrated by the examples in 2:13-3:7.

Our prayer: that enemies will be conquered by the Gospel & glorify God - That God will use our lives to adorn and commend the Gospel.

The Gospel **message** NEEDS to be heard – from those **who live it**.