

*“Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul: Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.” 1 Peter 2:10-12 KJV*



Why are the “people of God as strangers and pilgrims?” It is because they are not home, but are on a journey to “a city whose builder and maker is God.” They are IN the world, but not OF the world. They are the KING’S ambassadors pleading with His enemies, “Be ye reconciled to God” before He comes upon the earth with fire and vengeance! He will not long endure the blasphemy of unbelief against the Holy Spirit’s urging to repent and be saved! “God has commanded men everywhere to repent...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” Repentance is the return to obedience of God’s Word. Sorrow and tears are NOT repentance! Remorse is NOT repentance! God did not create Hell for men, but for “the devil and his angels.” His intention from the beginning of time was to save men from the eternal separation of death and hell! However, He will not save those who reject His gift of faith which “cometh by the Word of God. For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” God’s gift of faith is the “gold” which procures immortality for men. God’s Word explains; “Behold, I shew you a mystery: We (believers) shall not all sleep, (die) but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. And it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.” God will not force men into heaven, but He will vindicate His wrath upon every ungrateful soul that rejects the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary where He “gave His life a ransom for many.” Those who believe they can merit heaven by their own works, will get a chance to offer those works to God on Judgment Day where “the dead, small and great, [will] stand before God; and the books opened: and another book [will be] opened, which is the Book of Life: and the dead [will be] judged out of those things which [are] written in the books, according to their works. And Death and Hell [will be] cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the Second Death. And whosoever [is] not found written in the Book of Life [will be] cast into the Lake of Fire. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life. This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” I would rather be a stranger and a pilgrim on earth than an eternal stranger to heaven!

By faith I am a child of God,  
With pilgrim’s sandals I am shod,  
I tarry not for earth’s delights,  
But seek God’s City filled with Light! -CGP

You can trust yourself or you can trust God! Which will it be? If God is a stranger to you when you die, you will be forever a stranger to eternal life. You still have a chance to repent and make God your KING, Dearest Friend, as long as you draw breath, BUT “it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this, the Judgment.” Men are born

separated from God and must through faith in His Word, join themselves to Him and Eternal Life if they would seek to escape the eternal darkness of *“the Second Death.”* Will your name be blotted out of The Book of Life, because of your unbelief?

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” John 3:16-18 KJV*

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