

Strangers and Pilgrims

by Watchman Nee

A Christian's true identity is that of a stranger and a pilgrim, having a neutral attitude towards the world and being on a journey towards their heavenly home.

Scripture: Psalm 119:19, Matthew 6:19-20, John 15:19, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 5:1, Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:2, Hebrews 11:13, 1 Peter 2:11, Revelation 21:4

Topics: "Christian Identity", "Eternal Perspective"

Description

Watchman Nee explores the concept of being 'strangers and pilgrims' on earth, emphasizing that true believers are not fully invested in worldly affairs but are instead sojourners with a higher calling. He illustrates this through his experience in England during a time of crisis, where he felt detached from the local emotions and events, recognizing that his true home lies elsewhere. This perspective encourages Christians to maintain a neutral stance towards worldly troubles and joys, focusing instead on their eternal destination.

Transcript

"Having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Hebrews 11:13

What does it mean to be a stranger and a pilgrim? Let me use an illustration. During my stay in England, shortly before the Munich crisis, I noticed people preparing for war by digging trenches, preparing shelters, and distributing masks for poisonous gas. My feelings at that time were entirely different from those of the Englishmen. I watched them prepare for war until the news came that a pact had been signed.

Many could not sleep that night. They sang and they shouted. But what was my reaction? I watched unmoved. While they had been busily preparing for war, I had watched coldly; now when they rejoiced over peace, I still watched coldly. I was a sojourner. I would soon go away. In their joy and in their sorrow I was merely an observer. So it was that I realized what it means to be an alien. My attitude toward England was neutral. I hoped for her good; I wished her peace; but my interests lay elsewhere.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/watchman-nee/strangers-and-pilgrims/>

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