

Living as a Stranger in a Wicked World

How to deal with daily life as a pilgrim on earth

Turn to Hebrews 11:13-16

Intro: Daniel was likely a teen when his home was literally taken over by the godless. His home and quite possibly his family, were violently destroyed. He was brought to a new land with new leaders, and new gods. As the days pass, we find ourselves more and more to be strangers in our own country.

1. Don't defile yourself! 1:8

Daniel 1:1-8, 15-21

Don't be like this world!!

- This is not just having to do with smoking, drinking, and lying around. Those are things we should avoid. But there are also more subtle ways that we act like the natives:
 - *We are selfish
 - *We are covetous
 - *We are prideful
 - *We are lustful
 - *We are impatient

2. Seek Wisdom from the Lord 2:16-23 (Nebuchadnezzar couldn't remember his dream)

1. From wise counsel
2. From Prayer
3. From God's Word

3. Humbly submit to authority as much as possible 2:37

Daniel is speaking to the king that is likely responsible for the death of his family members. He is his captor, and yet he treats him with respect, and a godly attitude.

4. Help your brethren 2:46-49

5. Don't bow with the masses 3:1-23

1. This isn't mean or spiteful, or with a bad attitude
2. It's taking a stand *and* loving your neighbor - being burdened for those who are bowing.

6. Trust Jesus to get you through 23-30

7. Respect Authority & speak truth ch 4 (19-27)

Nebuchadnezzar has a second dream, but this time he tells it.

8. Be bold for God ch 5 - telling Belshazzar that God's judgement is coming

9. Strive to have an excellent spirit 6:3

Be salt and light

10. Let nothing be faulted you except that you followed the Lord 6:4, 5

Read v. 6-9

11. Develop consistent character 6:10**12. Foster a thankful heart 6:10****13. Don't give up, don't give in 6:10**

"Keep serving God, and don't stop for anything!"

Read v. 11-15

14. Serve continually 6:16

Read v. 17-21

15. Trust the Lord to protect and prosper you 6:22,28**16. Keep short accounts with God 9:3-19****17. Rest in the Lord 12:13****1 Peter 2:11-25**

¹¹ Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; ¹² 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. ¹³ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; ¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. ¹⁵ For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: ¹⁶ As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. ¹⁷ Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. ¹⁸ Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. ¹⁹ For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. ²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: ²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously: ²⁴ Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. ²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.