



# The Good News

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♪ “Here we are but straying pilgrims...” ♪

By Michael McCleary

We often sing #213 “Here We Are But Straying Pilgrims”, reminding ourselves that, no matter what is occurring in our lives, we are simply passing through this life to get to the next one. Unfortunately, we sometimes get so caught up in our everyday lives and schedules that we forget that we are truly “straying pilgrims”. So how can I quickly remind myself during the week that I need to have the character of one who is just “a passin’ through”?

**Hebrews 11:13-16 – Remember the promise:** The Hebrew writer recalls several people of faith, including Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah, while observing that they all obeyed God and did what He directed them to do even though they never received the promises in their lifetimes. However, we learn that they “*having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*” They knew the fulfillment of the promise of eternal life was coming and so they obediently served God in every capacity. The promise was fulfilled when Christ came, but the inheritance of the promise is only to them that follow what God has said. As we walk in our everyday lives and schedules, let’s ask ourselves if we are embracing the promise of eternal life as God would have us to do. Are we making the most of every opportunity to manifest a godly character? If we remember that we must do these things to receive the inheritance of the promise of eternal life we will be more apt to recall that we are simply “straying pilgrims”.

**II Pet. 3:10-13 – Remember to look for Jesus:** As Peter addresses the saints, he rhetorically asks “What manner of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness”, especially considering that the earth and everything in it will be burned up? He is recalling to the saint’s minds that what we

have here on earth will not last. It will all be destroyed. Therefore we should live in accordance with the Word of God. But Peter does not stop there...he continues by saying, “*looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God*”. Are we looking for, and even “*hastening*”, the coming of the day of God? Carefully consider this question...are you ready for everything to end? If the Lord came back during services this morning, would you be happy to hear that great trumpet and to see the Lord coming in the clouds? Or would some of us be mournful, knowing we are not in a ready state spiritually? How can we truly “*look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells*” if we cannot hasten it? John says in **Rev. 22:20**, “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*” Are we willing to add this to our prayers as he does? We must remember in our everyday lives and schedules that Jesus will come “*as a thief in the night*”. Will Jesus find us watching and hastening His coming? Or dreading it? Considering this, let us make sure that our conduct is honorable among all, abstaining from sin and doing the will of God (**I Pet. 2:11-12**). Let us consider the type of people we ought to be in conduct and godliness every day as we look for, and hasten, His coming.

Jesus says in **Luke 12:37**, “*Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.*” In **Luke 12:39-40**, “*But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*” Do you consider yourself a straying pilgrim and a sojourner this morning? Does your character manifest this during the week? If not, remember the promise of eternal life and that we will receive the inheritance of the promise if the Lord truly finds us watching when He comes.