

The Christian Migrant

Text: 1 Peter 2:11-12 “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...”

Purpose: Peter wanted these Christians to live consistently, godly lives before their unsaved neighbors, in spite of the constant challenges they would face, so that their neighbors would be brought to conversion resulting in God’s glory.

Proposition: God wants you to live a consistent, Christ-centered life.

Interrogative: How can I do this?

Section 1: The focused perspective of a Christian migrant:

- **Truth 1: I must remember I am a foreigner in this world: 2:11** “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims...”
 - **Stranger:** Someone who resides in a country with no right to citizenship and the rights associated with that status.
 - **Pilgrim:** Someone who is a temporary resident in a foreign land.
- **Truth 2: I must remember that the appeal of the flesh is a constant struggle: 2:11** “Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul...”
 - Passions that find their source in your fallen nature.
 - Passions that you must learn to put to death.
 - Passions that seek to destroy your inner man.
- **Truth 3: I must remember that people will talk behind my back: 2:12** “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers...”
 - Knowing that people are watching you is sometimes an uncomfortable place to be.
 - Knowing that people are talking about you behind your back is even worse.
 - Some people cannot handle criticism, Christians must learn to let gossips go and the facts over time settle their true intentions and actions.
- **Truth 4: I must remember that a godly life is a powerful tool in God’s hands: 2:12** “They may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation...”
 - The future blessing of people glorifying God as their Savior on the judgment day.
 - The future blessing that these who were once antagonistic to God and His people are now glorifying Him
 - The future blessing that an important part of God’s plan to bring them to redemption was your faithfulness to live out the Christian life before them.

Section 2: The purposed living of a Christian migrant:

- **Purpose because you have encouragers: 2:11** “Dearly beloved, I beseech you...”
 - **Dearly beloved:** He expresses his affection for them
 - **I beseech you:** He indicates that he is coming alongside them to encourage them.

- **This is the role that the local church plays in your life and personal growth into Christ-likeness.**
- **Purpose to die to self daily because your life matters:** All three verbs, are in the present tense, indicating that there is a continual need to die to self and submit ourselves to God's will.
 - "I beseech..."
 - "Abstain..."
 - "Which war..."
- **Purpose because you believe what God says:** "They may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation..."
 - There is a future judgment seat evaluation for you
 - There is a future judgment day for them
 - It will be worth it when that day comes if we have been faithful!

Conclusion: God wants you to live a consistent, Christ-centered life. This consistency begins with a properly shaped perspective about the nature of the Christian life and should result in purposed walking by faith.