

This World is Not
My Home



**How did early Christians
face the destruction of their
society?**

¹ Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down!”

Matthew 24:1-2



Luke 21:28 (CSB)

**“But when these things
begin to take place, stand
up and lift up your heads,
because your redemption
is near.”**

How could early Christians be so calm
and accepting of the destruction
around them?

They were “*of
another world!*”

First-Century Christians Were “Other Worldly!”

- **“Our citizenship is in heaven!”
(Philippians 3:20)**
- **“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” (1 Peter 2:11)**

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15** If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Non-Inspired Quotes From Early Christians

- **“Since our thoughts are not fixed on the present, we are not concerned when men put us to death.”
(Justin Martyr – middle 2nd Century)**
- **“Brothers, let us willingly leave our sojourn in this present world so we can do the will of Him who called us. And let us not fear to depart out of this world.”
(Unknown elder in the early 2nd Century)**

Non-Inspired Quotes From Early Christians

“The one peaceful and trustworthy tranquility, the one security that is solid, firm and never changing, is this: for a man to withdraw from the distractions of this world, anchor himself to the firm ground of salvation, and lift his eyes from earth to heaven.”

(Cyprian – early third century)

Quote From an Early Christian in This Country

“You must not mind earthly things, nor set your affections on them - not to be conformed to the world ... Here you have no abiding place, but are strangers and pilgrims seeking a better country.”

(Barton W. Stone, 1841, Paris, KY)

**Why Is It So Difficult To Be “Other
Worldly” Today?**

Prosperity!

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

11 Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, **12** lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them. **13** and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; **14** when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Signs of a “This Worldly” Focus

- Declining emphasis on evangelizing the lost and increasing emphasis on the local Bible class program
- Failure to discipline unruly members – move to accept those who are “culturally acceptable”
- Acceptance & promotion of the “Social Gospel” in churches
- Our conversations show too much focus on hobbies, entertainment, sports, politics, house, etc.
- A desire for “lite” Bible study
- Discomfort with teaching on worldliness

How Do We Fight Worldly Tendencies?

- Be ready to suffer
- Give more
- Make a point to talk about spiritual things
- Spend more time with Christians
- Identify with heaven more than USA
- See the world for what it is - a temporary place of suffering

David Lipscomb

Christ's subjects are in the world but not of it. His kingdom is not of this world; his subjects cannot fight with carnal weapons. Their citizenship is in heaven, the weapons of their warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. His children are pilgrims and strangers in the earthly kingdoms. They seek a city which hath foundations, whose maker and builder is God.



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