

Family TableTalk

Conversation 02

Strangers in Strange Times

read

1 Peter 2:11&12

think

The other day, a pastor referenced a 95-year-old woman who said she's never witnessed anything like this recent pandemic. The Great Depression and World War II were not as strange to her as these times. This statement brought the realities of this time home to me in a tangible way.

Strange. Bizarre. Weird. Unprecedented. The frequency of these words over the course of the last few months are immeasurable. In essence, we are saying that these days are unlike other days we've experienced on this earth. As we think about our passage, we find a similar notion.

Earlier in chapter 2, Peter tells us that we were in darkness and were called into the light by God's mercy. Because of this, we are adopted as God's children. And, as amazing and joyful and life-giving as that reality is, this makes us sojourners and exiles in this world. Or, as one translation states, 'Strangers.'

The truth of God's children being strangers is why Peter calls us to fight against our sin and strive after good works in the remaining verses. As strangers, we realize that this world – as beautiful as it can be – is not our home. This pandemic serves as a reminder that this world is not our home. God the Father, through the perfect life and death of his Son, has a perfect home waiting for us. Let these strange days remind a bunch of strangers, like us, of the life to come.

apply

- If we are to live as strangers or sojourners in this life, what might that look like? What sort of fruit should that produce in the life of a Christian?
- Christians are called to have an eternal mindset in their daily life. Are your priorities modeling that this world is not your home?
- How does this pandemic help you let go of this life and look forward to the eternity Jesus purchased for us?

pray

Father, thank you for this world that you have created. Thank you for the eternity that is waiting for us. An eternity with no sadness, no tears, and no sickness or suffering of any kind. As we wait for you to take us to our true home, help us to live faithfully as your children. Spirit, strengthen us and help us to set our minds on this eternity. Help us to let go of our fleshly desires and strive to do good in the name of Jesus, for his glory and honor.

by John Perritt

John Perritt is the Director of Resources for Reformed Youth Ministries (www.rym.org). He's the author of *Not If, But When: Preparing Our Children for Worldly Images*, *Insecure, Mark: How Jesus Changes Everything*, *Time Out!*, *What Would Judas Do?*, & *Your Days Are Numbered*. He's the series editor of *Track*, a student discipleship series through Christian Focus Publications. He's the host of RYM's *The Local Youth Worker* and co-host of *Parenting Today* podcasts. He and his wife, Ashleigh, have five children.

cpyu.org  **CPYU**
CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH UNDERSTANDING

© 2020 Center For Parent/Youth Understanding