

## **Marked: Called to Travel Well**

### **1 Peter 1**

By God's design, we are strangers in this world. When we embrace what it means to live out of place, we live according to the life God has called us to.

**Have you ever traveled to a place where you did not speak the native language? If so, where?**

**What was your experience like as you tried to do basic things, such as order food or find a desired destination?**

**As we'll see in our passage, the Bible speaks of Christians as strangers or foreigners in this world. What is one tension you have experienced lately living as a Christian in this world?**

As Christians our true citizenship is in heaven. We are strangers in a strange land. Peter called us strangers and temporary residents (1 Pet. 2:11). John warned about love of the world (1 John 2:15). Paul was deserted by Demas who "loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4:9). The teaching of the New Testament is clear—we must be careful to see the world as a place we are traveling through, not one we are at home in. Our true citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 1:1-2.

**What do you know about Peter from the Gospels and the Book of Acts? What was Peter like? What made him worthy to be an apostle?**

Peter's unique experiences, failures, triumphs, and suffering as a follower of Christ equipped him to speak timely words of encouragement to Christians in Asia Minor who were living under the threat of increased persecution. More important than his past experiences, Peter had been chosen by God to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, which gave him authority to deliver God's truth.

**How did Peter describe the members of the churches from various communities in Asia Minor in verse 1? Why do you think he described them this way?**

**Do you think of yourself as a "temporary resident" (v. 1)? Why or why not? How might your perspective and priorities need to change for you to begin seeing yourself this way?**

Christians in this world are strangers in a strange land. We have been chosen by God to live as foreigners in this life. We are not our own—He has picked us and set us apart for His holy purposes. We are exiles—we do not ultimately belong to this world, nor do we

“fit” in it. We live in a world that is corrupted by sin, a world that increasingly does not understand us, yet God has appointed us to live in this world as strangers for His glory.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 1:3-9.

**What does it mean to have received a living hope, and how did Jesus’ resurrection deliver it to us? How should we live now in light of this hope?**

**How does our new birth enable to us to live in any circumstance with joy and hope?**

**How can we rejoice in the midst of various trials? What would Peter have us focus on in the midst of suffering?**

Peter referred to his readers as “temporary residents” and “strangers” (1:1; 2:11). They were looked down upon by others in society and were constantly pressured to compromise their faith. In the midst of difficulties, Peter called upon his readers to rejoice in the salvation that was theirs in Christ, a salvation that entailed an “imperishable” and “undefiled” inheritance. Suffering would produce two results. First, it would demonstrate the genuineness of these believers’ faith. Secondly, persecution would result in praise, glory, and honor. God will crown His people who are faithful through persecution with all the honor heaven can bestow.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 1:10-12.

**What do we know about the salvation Peter spoke of in verse 10 (see vv. 3-9)?**

**What did Peter say these prophets searched and inquired carefully for?**

**Why do you think Christians in Asia Minor needed this reminder? Why do we need this reminder?**

**How does our devotion to God’s Word make us seem strange to the culture we live in?**

Living as a stranger is rooted in a trust in God’s Word, which perhaps is the quality that makes us the most strange. All of Scripture tells one unified story of salvation by grace through faith in Christ. The Old Testament constantly points us forward to the coming Messiah who would forgive, cleanse, and restore sinners to a right relationship with God. The New Testament demonstrates how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of these promises.

**Do you live as a stranger in this world, or as someone who is far too comfortable? How should your relationship with the world change if it truly isn’t your home?**

**How can we keep one another focused on what is most important in this regard?**

**How does feeling strange and out of place drive us to our mission?**