

Living in this Foreign Time....

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Understanding the Times:

Past, Present, Future

Philippians 3:17–21 “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. [18] For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. [19] Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. [20] **But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,** [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

Know What You Ought to Do:

Just Do It, Live H_____.

1 Peter 2:11–12 “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

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A Time to Weep - Living In A Foreign Land

Lamentations: Part 4 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
...a time to weep...a time to mourn”

Does the world around you feel foreign? Does the world around you wear you out?

Lamentations 1:3 “Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.”

How do you find joy in the midst of so much suffering? Psalm 137:1, 4 “By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. ... How shall we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land?”

1. We must u_____ the times we live in!

1 Chronicles 12:32 “Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do”

2. We must seek the b_____ b_____ for our temporary home! Jeremiah 29:7 “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

3. We must look beyond our t_____ home, longing for our e_____ home!

Hebrews 13:14 “For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.”

- 2 Corinthians 5:1 “we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

6 Steps Forward in Foreign Times:

2 Corinthians 6:2-13

1. Love God - Understanding False R_____.

Matthew 15:8 “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me”

2 Corinthians 6:11-13 “We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.”

2. Practice Self-Control - Understanding

Cultural H_____. Ecclesiastes 1:9 “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.”

2 Corinthians 6:10 “**as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing**; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything”

3. Be Kind to Non-Christians - Understanding

R_____. Luke 6:27-28 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”

2 Corinthians 6:6 “by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love”

4. Exhibit Faithfulness - Understanding

Spiritual T_____. Isaiah 5:20 “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

2 Corinthians 6:7-9 “by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed”

5. Be A Joy-Filled Presence - Understanding

Eternal C_____. 1 Corinthians 6:9 “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality.”

2 Corinthians 6:2-3 “For he says, ‘In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. [3] We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,

6. Endure - Understanding God’s P_____.

Romans 12:9 “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”

2 Corinthians 6:4-5 “but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger”

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