

## LIVING WHERE YOU DO NOT BELONG

By: John Curtis

In Jesus' prayer to the Father in John 17, He states that His disciples are not of this world, just as He is not of this world. How can that be? Were we not born in this world? Of course we were. But, we have been called out of this world (2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Peter 1:13-15), and we have been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18,19). We do not belong to this world, or even to ourselves (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

If we do not belong to this world, then how do we live in this world? Missionaries, diplomats and others could give us some insight living in a culture that is not our own, but let's learn how from one that knows more than all of these put together, Jesus - the Son of God, who left heaven and dwelt as a man in a world in which He did not belong. How did He do it, and what did He teach that will help us do it?

1. **Remember that you do not belong here** (Matthew 6:19-21; 22:17-21). Jesus knew where He was from and often spoke of returning.
2. **Do not fall in love with this world** (Matthew 6:24; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Peter 2:20). Jesus knew a better place, heaven, and knew that He was returning there when His mission on earth was complete.
3. **Live holy lives** (Matthew 5-7; 1 Peter 1:15). Jesus lived a perfect life, without sin, even in this dark world.
4. **Stay focused on why you are here** (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:22-24). Jesus constantly was concerned with fulfilling the will of His Father.
5. **Stay in touch with the home land** (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 22:29; 2 Timothy 2:15). Jesus frequently separated himself from the mob and disciples to pray. Know the Scriptures thoroughly. He also taught others to pray, and the importance of knowing the Scriptures.
6. **Look expectantly to going home** (John 14:3; Luke 12:36-37; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Jesus spoke about returning to the Father and taking His disciples with Him.

If we will observe and practice the way Jesus lived and what He taught, then we too can live as we should in this world to which we do not belong.

- Messenger, Paul & Pine St. Church of Christ, Paul's Valley, Oklahoma -

*Heaven: To be with God. - Confucius*

### News & Notes

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Resumes this Tuesday, May 25th at 9:00 a.m. All ladies invited.

**PANTRY:** Tuna fish & noodles.

**CHESTER'S FRIDAY NIGHT SING:** June 4th at 7:00 p.m. Plan to be here!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** June 14th-18th. Adult Class: Ed Melott.

**POTTER'S CHILDREN'S HOME:** Money donations or the following grocery items are needed by the week of June 20, 2010: *White Rice, Italian Salad Dressing, Lysol Spray, D Batteries, and Cheerios.* See Jerry Shultz for details.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** West Canton ----- June 20-24 ----- F. Higginbotham  
**CAMP:** June 28th-July 3rd.

**BOX TOPS & LABELS FOR EDUCATION:** Help Mid-Western Children's Home. See the bulletin board for details and sample labels to save. A basket is available for collection of the labels.

**THOSE WITH MEDICAL CONCERNS:** Mary Jane Bowers, Ella Beagle, Melissa Barr (daughter of Melvin & Charlotte Reed), Bob Cyphers, Bobby Sheville, Shirley Beagle, Rosie Moore, Marilyn Miller, Rich Robinson, Harry Nice. **In Iowa:** Jack Board. **Check the bulletin board for others who are shut in.**

### "The Lure of the Good Enough"

By James W. Adams

Someone has written, "There is no more insidious danger than the lure of good enough." This is particularly true in the realm of the spiritual. Self-satisfaction is the mother of complacency. Complacency is the mother of sloth. And sloth brings condemnation. Well did Paul warn Christians, "*For if anyone thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself*" (Galatians 6:3). One who thinks he knows enough will cease to study. One who thinks he gives enough will not increase his giving. One who thinks he does enough will cease from doing. The feeling that we are "good enough" is the grave of growth. Growth is the law of life. Like Paul of old, we should rather say, "*I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 3:13-14). Like an old Scots preacher, we should pray: "Lord, keep me alive as long as I live." Let us not be seduced by "the lure of the good enough."

- via Midtown Church of Christ, Victoria, TX