

### Stranger in a Strange Land

In college, I spent a year studying in England. I was a stranger in a foreign land and it very quickly became clear to me that, as George Bernard Shaw said, “England and America are two countries separated by a common language.” French fries are chips, potato chips are crisps, cookies are biscuits, sparkling water is fizzy water, trucks are lorries, camping trailers are caravans, parking lots are car parks, elevators are lifts, and the first floor is the one above the ground floor and not the ground floor itself. This made conversations sometimes hard to follow, but eventually I learned enough to be able to hold my own.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we sometimes speak of things that non-believers find hard to follow. In this week’s passage, we will learn that God has placed us here to live as strangers among people who need to know him just as much as we do. Let’s speak clearly as we show them how wonderful he truly is. After all, we are Christ’s ambassadors.

#### Monday – Relational

*“But men never violate the laws of God without suffering the consequences, sooner or later.”* Lydia M. Child, 19<sup>th</sup> c. American abolitionist

1. Please read 1 Peter 1:17-25 (focusing on verse 17). How should the nature of God impact our lives?
2. According to Proverbs 9:10, where do wisdom and knowledge come from? What steps can you take to attain this wisdom and knowledge?

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**Text Insight:** The fear of God is (among other things) a **healthy** recognition of the awful consequences of being separated from God for eternity.

**Digging Deeper** (optional) - In Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 10:17 and 2 Chronicles 19:4-7, what do you learn about God’s impartial view of people and your role in living impartially as well?

**Making it Personal:** Ask God to help you understand, and live out, your relationship with him and others.

#### Tuesday – Precious

*“When you entertain any temptation to sin, you do as wisely as he who takes those into his house whom he knows are come on purpose to spoil [rob] him of what he esteems most precious.”* Lancelot Addison, 17<sup>th</sup> c. English clergyman

1. Please read 1 Peter 1:17-25. How is Jesus described in verses 18-19? Is this how you see him? Why (or why not)?
2. Take a look at 2 Samuel 14:14. How does it help you understand Isaiah 53:4-7 and John 1:29-37?

**Digging Deeper:** Read Revelation 5:1-14 and describe in your own words how the story of God turns out.

#### Wednesday – Chosen

*“Rejoice, that the immortal God is born, so that mortal man may live in eternity.”* John Huss, 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> c. Czech theologian

1. Please read 1 Peter 1:17-25. In vs. 20-21, what was Jesus chosen to do? What has been revealed to us?
2. Look at John 1:1-4 and explain how it is possible for Jesus to have been chosen before creation.
3. According to Philippians 2:5-11, what did Jesus choose to do for us? Based on what you read in this passage, describe the extreme nature of his choice.

**Making it Personal:** Have you accepted the gift God offers through Jesus’ choice? Pray now to receive it.

#### Thursday – Imperishable

*“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.”* C.S. Lewis, 20<sup>th</sup> c. Anglo-Irish writer

1. Please read 1 Peter 1:22-25 in conjunction with Isaiah 40:6-8 and John 1:1. What do you think Peter means by the living and enduring word of God?
2. How can people become imperishable according to John 3:3 and 2 Corinthians 5:17?
3. What is the importance of the sincere love Peter calls us to, according to Jesus in John 13:34-35?

**Prayer Focus:** Pray for God’s people to be known for their sincere love, showing the world who Jesus is.

#### Friday – Strangers

*“I am a pilgrim and a stranger, travelin’ through this worrisome land.”* I Am a Pilgrim (bluegrass traditional)

1. Please read 1 Peter 1:13-17. Why do you think Peter tells us to live as strangers?
2. According to 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, what is our role as ambassadors in a foreign land?
3. What does it mean to implore someone to be reconciled to God? How did Paul go about doing it? How are you going about “imploping” people to be reconciled to God?

**Making it Personal:** What would it take for you to live as God’s ambassador under Jesus’ instructions?

**For the Weekend:** Re-read 1 Peter 1:17-25. Which ideas seem to apply most to your life right now? Why?