

Just Visiting

by Wayne Goff

Often we meet those in our assemblies who have graciously stopped to worship with us as they are briefly *passing through* our community. When asked if they live in the area, we often hear the words: "No, we're just visiting."

Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17 and asked for the Father's blessing upon them. *"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. . . . They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world"* (vv. 14, 16). Christians make up **the church**, the *ekklesia*, "the called out." They have been called **out of the world** because *"the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one"* (1 Jn. 5:19). The world suffers under the influence of Satan, *"the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience"* (Eph. 2:2).

Christians combat that by being **transformed** by the Word of God (Rom. 12:2), and by *"casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"* (2 Cor. 10:5).

Christians have a world view that is *beyond and above* this present existence. We are *"sojourners and pilgrims"* (1 Peter 2:11) who are *"just visiting"* this earthly realm for a little while. We are just passing through.

American Christians of this generation are having to learn these truths anew. For most of this country's existence we have experienced a very friendly, supportive disposition from government. Today the government is **hostile** toward Christianity, and as Christians we must decide whether we will capitulate or stand and fight. We are ever called upon by God to be a *"good soldier"* who endures hardships (2 Tim. 2:3). Christians in America have become soft and comfortable, and as the values of the world are increasingly forced upon us, we will have to become stronger. *"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier"* (2 Tim. 2:4). Make no mistake about it, it is a matter of life and death, *spiritually speaking*. So come out and be separate, 2 Corinthians 6:17!

302301