

“The Kingdom of God!”

Part 23: “Strangers and aliens ... awaiting the fullness of God’s kingdom!”



**John 17:1-26; Romans 14:17-19;
Colossians 1:9-14; Hebrews 11:13-16, 32-40**

Introduction: **Hebrews 11:13-16** ... “As it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one” (vs. 16).

Hebrews 11:32-40: “... so that they might rise again to a better life!” (vs. 35).

Is the “abundant life” Jesus promised the same thing as the carefree life being offered by some today in Jesus’ name ... or is it something MORE?!! (See John 15:18, 16:33; Revelation 3:16)

Hebrews 11:1-3,6: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (vs. 1).

We who are united to Christ by faith live as citizens of His kingdom now, as we await its fullness at His return.

We are called to live by faith, trusting our Father in heaven to fulfill His promises in Christ in His time, in His way and for His glory!

I. Live in the world as aliens and strangers ...

John 17:1-26: “And this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (vs. 3).

Jesus speaks repeatedly of those “whom You have given Me” (vss. 2,6,9).

John 17:24 ... It is those whom the Father has given to Jesus who are given ears to hear by His Spirit and who believe in Jesus Christ!

John 17:14-18: “... they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world” (vss. 14, 16).

There will be only one place where you “fit in,” where you can experience the “abundant life” of faith: the Church, His Body!

Jesus prays for the ONENESS of those whom the Father has given Him.

II. Live in the world as citizens of God’s kingdom ...

Romans 14:17-19: “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (vs. 17).

II Corinthians 6:14-18, 7:1: “What fellowship has light with darkness? ... ‘Go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord’ ...” (vss. 14,17).

Matthew 5:13-16: “You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world!” (vss. 13-14).

I John 1:5-7: “If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another ...” (vs. 7).

As we live in this world it is not “US against THEM!” It is “THEM against CHRIST!” (Matthew 12:30).

Colossians 1:9-14: “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (vs. 13).

III. Live in the world awaiting Jesus’ return ...

You cannot live as an alien and a stranger in the world unless you know THIS is not your home!

Hebrews 11:13-16, 35b-40 ... 12:1-2: “... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus ...” (vss. 1-2).

John 14:1-3: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (vs. 3).

John 17:24: “Father, I desire that they also whom you have given Me may be with Me where I am, to see my glory ...”

We who are united to Christ by faith live as citizens of His kingdom now, as we await its fullness at His return.

Examine yourself ... examine your life ... do these things describe YOU??

Have you been born again by the Spirit? Are you following Jesus? Are you experiencing the “abundant life” of faith and obedience, knowing God loves you in Christ Jesus and loving Him back??