



Series: Refined

Sermon: Part 1: Strangers In The World

Date: Sunday, February 16th, 2025

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.
(2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NLT)

“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”... “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:3,5)

_____ Amnesia: When believers live in a hostile culture that is against God, when they live in a world that is broken because of sin and as a result face suffering from that brokenness, it is very easy for followers of Jesus to forget who they are in Christ and forget what they have been given by Christ.

When We Go Through Hard Times:

1. Remember our identity in Christ: that we are His children and that He will care for us

When we know who we are in _____, we will know how to live for Christ.

Scripture referenced in sermon message: 1 Peter 1:1-12

An _____: “one who is sent by God”

When Peter calls these believers God’s elect, he is referring to them as children of God, that their names are written in God’s Book of Life.

Because of a believer’s new identity in Christ, they can now live in a _____ way and not in their old ways.

2. Remember our inheritance: that we have been saved from sin and redeemed by God

My salvation is _____ no matter what happens to me because God is the one who shields me. It is not my works or efforts that save me, but His work on the cross that saves me.



It is our faith in Christ that saves us, not our works.

3. Remember to hold onto the promise that trials are not wasted because they are used by God to purify our faith

“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Do we rely on our faith in God and can our faith withstand the trials that we are facing?

“Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)

“...anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory. (Romans 8:17-18)

Do you know who you are and Whose you are?

Bottom Line: *When we know who we are and Whose we are, that will transform us and the way that we live.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

- 1. Reflect on a time when you went through a trial or a difficult time. What was your response? Did it strengthen your faith and pull you towards God or did it cause you to doubt God and pull away from Him?*
- 2. How has a difficult time or trial that you have faced revealed the idols, addictions, or crutches that you have the tendency to run to instead of God?*
- 3. How does our identity in Christ and our salvation because of Him give us perspective in the midst of our suffering?*

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?