

This World is Not Our Home

Revelation 17:1-18

Big Idea: The world offers alluring systems that pull us away from God — but they are passing away. Only those who trust in the Lamb of God have eternal life. This world is not our home. Are you trusting Jesus?

Day 1: This World Is
Not Our Home

Reading:
John 14:1-6

Pastor Tim shared the story of his Aunt Edie, a woman who endured extraordinary suffering yet never grew bitter. Her joy was rooted not in the comfort of this world but in the certainty of another. Jesus, in John 14, reassures His followers that He goes ahead to prepare a place for them. This world is a temporary residence. Our bodies are on loan. Our possessions are borrowed. When we anchor our hearts in the permanence of eternity rather than the instability of the present, suffering loses its power to destroy us. Ask yourself today: where is your true home?

Practical Application: Write down one earthly attachment you have been gripping too tightly and surrender it to God in prayer.

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Day 2: Bitter or Better -
Responding to Suffering

Reading:
Romans 5:1-5

Pastor Tim drew a sharp and simple contrast: human beings respond to suffering by growing either bitter or better. Aunt Edie lost her mother young, endured a difficult marriage, buried a son, and lost two homes to fire, yet the joy of the Lord remained her strength. Paul, in Romans 5, traces the path from suffering to hope, showing that trials produce endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This is not wishful thinking. It is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit poured into the hearts of those who trust God. Suffering is not the end of the story.

Practical Application: Identify one area of personal suffering and ask God to use it to build endurance and deepen your hope in Him.

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Day 3: Do Not Love
the World

Reading:
1 John 2:15-25

John, the same man who recorded the visions of Revelation, wrote plainly that the world and its desires are passing away. The allure of this world's system is powerful. It is dressed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, and carries a golden cup. It looks appealing. It promises fulfillment. But it is empty. The desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life are not from the Father. Whoever does the will of God abides forever. The world's system, no matter how polished or persuasive, is temporary. God's truth is eternal. Choose what lasts.

Practical Application: Examine your daily habits and identify one area where the world's values have quietly shaped your thinking more than Scripture has.

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Day 4: The Lamb
Who Conquers

Reading:
Revelation 5:9-14

Pastor Tim pointed out something striking in Revelation 17:14 -- the enemies of God make war not on a lion, but on a Lamb, and the Lamb conquers them. This is the central paradox of the Christian faith. The greatest power ever displayed was not military might or political authority. It was a crucifixion. Jesus went to the cross as the sacrificial Lamb, and that act of apparent weakness became the source of ultimate victory. He is the Lord of lords and King of kings. Every knee will bow before the Lamb. Those who are called, chosen, and faithful stand with Him in that victory today.

Practical Application: Spend time in worship today specifically thanking Jesus for His sacrifice as the Lamb, and reflect on what it means to stand on the winning side.

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Day 5: Seeds Planted,
Lives Changed

Reading:
Matthew 24:3-14

Pastor Tim expressed a deep pastoral longing -- that the truths preached today would plant seeds in the hearts of those who are not yet ready to receive them, seeds that might one day take root and bear fruit. Jesus Himself, in Matthew 24, told His disciples that the gospel of the kingdom would be proclaimed throughout the whole world before the end comes. We are not called to predict the hour. We are called to be faithful witnesses. The days may be urgent. The fields are ready. Every conversation, every act of kindness, every honest word about Jesus is a seed with eternal potential.

Practical Application: Think of one person in your life who does not yet know Christ. Commit to praying for them daily this week and look for one natural opportunity to share your faith with them.

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