



THE SIGNAL

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"These all died in faith, not having received the promises but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." [Hebrews 11:13]

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is commonly referred to as The Christian's Hall of Faith. There we are reminded of the many who have gone before us on this journey from earth to heaven. They are described as pilgrims and strangers. Both words have the connotation of those on a journey to somewhere else. In the Greek, "pilgrim" refers to a foreigner who has settled down, however briefly, next to or among native people. They are not from "here," and they are on their way "there."

All the patriarchs lived the pilgrim life: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. We as believers are on our way to a heavenly kingdom, and are citizens of that place where Jesus has gone to prepare. [Col. 3:1; Eph. 2:19] Pilgrims may stay, transact business and live in a foreign land for many years, but in their hearts and in their ways and thinking, they never fully integrate. The old gospel song says it so descriptively:

*This world is not my home;
I'm just a-passing through.
My treasures are laid up
Somewhere beyond the blue.
The angels beckon me
From Heaven's open door;
And I can't feel at home
In this world anymore.*

Sadly, though, this doesn't seem to be the mindset of many professing followers of Christ. More of them emulate Lot than his uncle Abraham. Abraham was known by his tent and his altar. Lot loved Sodom's culture, its urban appeal, its notoriety. He possessed so much of Sodom's worldly mindset that he had to be physically pulled by angels out of the doomed city. On his way out, he begged them to lead him to another smaller city. He could not bear the nomadic life of a pilgrim.

The pilgrim title is very descriptive. Many of the truly spiritual giants of the Old Testament knew and

lived out the pilgrim attitude. When old Jacob was finally introduced to Pharaoh, he answered the ruler's question about his age: "The days of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years..." The psalmist said in Psalm 119:54, "Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage..." David testified in Psalm 39:12, "I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were."

Does this describe you and me? Do those who know us and observe our lives sense this about us? Or do we appear to be grasping tenaciously to the passing things of this world, like Lot, consumed with this life with little thought of the life to come?

Those described here in Hebrews 11 understood this mandate. Are you a pilgrim or a worldling? Are you a citizen of heaven, laboring in this colony called earth, waiting and longing for your transport home? Or are you as the rich young man who came to our Lord in Matthew 19? When Jesus told him to sell his possessions, follow Him, and then he would have treasure in heaven, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Being pilgrims here on earth does not mean we are to be aloof or unconcerned. We should do all that is within our power to make our corner of the vineyard a better place. However, we must keep in mind that all things here are only temporary and that this isn't all there is.

These verses in Hebrews remind us of the fellowship we share with fellow pilgrims. "These all died in the faith." "All" has the connotation of many others who have traversed this same path. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us that "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up."

The Lord has designed it that we serve Him down here in bands of believers, His local assemblies. We are to encourage one another and to help one another on our pilgrimage to heaven. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." [Gal. 6:10] These all died in faith. We share the faith of Moses, Abraham, David and Paul. We have their testimonies to encourage us heavenward.

"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Thank you for continuing to stand faithfully with us at the Where God Is Blessing Broadcasting Network in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Your support and your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Your servant,
Chris Lamb

ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY

SATURDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.

Adventures In Odyssey began as an experiment. In 1986 Dr. James Dobson of *Focus on the Family* wanted to produce a drama series for the radio that would appeal to kids in the hope of countering some of the questionable programming many kids were getting from Saturday morning cartoons. Today, almost thirty-five years later, *Adventures In Odyssey* has become an award-winning Christian audio drama series that brings biblical principles to life through a balance of fun, faith and imagination. Although the target audience are kids, ages 8-12, it's enjoyed by the whole family. The adventures often start with grandfatherly Mr. Whittaker ["Whit"], who runs an ice cream shop called Whit's End. Young friends from all over town come to Whit for advice, and his employees (perky Connie Kendall and genius Eugene Meltsner) often learn as much as the kids! And Wooton Bassett, the zany, fun-loving mailman, helps the kids in his own unique way. An animated version of *Adventures In Odyssey* can be seen on WAY-TV, Channel 16 on Saturday mornings, and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (check the WAY-TV broadcast schedule for specific times). For program updates, episode streaming, daily devotions and more, visit the *Adventures in Odyssey* website: www.whitsend.org.

FOCUS FAMILY THEATRE

SATURDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

Focus on the Family Radio Theatre is more than just storytelling and much more than an audio book. Each weekly, half-hour episode includes a cast of internationally acclaimed actors that make these dynamic stories come alive across the vast stage of your imagination. These exciting dramas are so compelling you just can't turn it off or exit the car. Recently aired classic series have included *The Hiding Place*, the story of Corrie ten Boom; the *Chronicles of Narnia*; the *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis; and *Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Freedom*. Current episodes include *Silas Marner* and *Billy Budd, Sailor*. Future episodes will include the *Legend of Squanto*; Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*; and *Amazing Grace, the story of John Newton*. The Saturday evening *Family Hour* on WGIB provides a quality and wholesome entertainment replacement for Christian families. Someone described it best when they said, "*Focus Family Theatre* merges the theatre of the mind with the theatre of the heart."