

Getting Started

1. How do you deal with problems?
2. Where do you consider home to be?
3. Have you ever felt like a foreigner or like you did not belong?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Belgic Confession Article 16: The Doctrine of Election

We believe that—all Adam's descendants having thus fallen into perdition and ruin by the sin of Adam—God showed himself to be as he is: merciful and just. God is merciful in withdrawing and saving from this perdition those who, in the eternal and unchangeable divine counsel, have been elected and chosen in Jesus Christ our Lord by his pure goodness, without any consideration of their works. God is just in leaving the others in their ruin and fall into which they plunged themselves.

What are your thoughts on the doctrine of election?

6. Read 1 Peter 2:9&10. Are you comforted by these words? Are they difficult to accept? How do they relate to this morning's message?
7. Is Peter alluding to Exodus 28:3-8?
8. Our citizenship is also spoken about in Philippians 3:20&21 and Hebrews 11:13-16. What does it mean that heaven is our home?

Application

9. It is incredibly easy to get caught up in the culture of where you live. Many would consider themselves Americans first and Christians second. Peter urges us to remember that heaven is our home and we are strangers in a foreign land. Do you live as though the U.S. is your home or heaven?

Bible Reading Questions

September 5 – Ezekiel 28-30 – Why does God have Ezekiel prophesy against Tyre, Sidon, Egypt and other nations?

September 6 – Ezekiel 31-33 – What is a watchman? How is Ezekiel a watchman for Israel?

September 7 – Ezekiel 34-36 – Who are the shepherds of Israel? What didn't they do?

September 8 – Ezekiel 37-39 – Chapter 37 is the most well known passage in Ezekiel. What does this prophecy of the dry bones mean?

September 9 – Ezekiel 40-42 – Why are they measuring the temple?

September 10 – Ezekiel 43-45 – It is almost as if God is giving the priests an abbreviated law. Why?

September 11 – Ezekiel 46-48 – For what purpose did God set aside the “special gift” of land at the center of the country?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · September 4, 2016

Common Problems

“Strangers in a Foreign Land”

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

1 Peter 1:1-2

- **Who wrote this letter?**

- **Who is the letter written to?**

- **Why was the letter written?**

Topics: Election, eternity, Christian living