

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. — Hebrews 11:13–16 (NKJV)



Here We Are But ~~Straying~~  
**FAITHFUL PILGRIMS**

Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

TRUE - We have ALL SINNED -  
But we are to be FAITHFUL pilgrims  
— Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11

Here we are but straying **pilgrims**, here our path is often dim, but to cheer us on our journey, still we sing this wayside hymn:  
Here our feet are often weary on the hills that throng our way; here the tempest darkly gathers, but our hearts within us say:  
Here our souls are often fearful of the **pilgrim** lurking foe; but the Lord is our defender, and He tells us we may know:  
Yonder over the rolling river, where the shining mansions rise, soon will be our home forever, and the smile of the blessed giver, gladdens all our longing eyes.

**stray**[ strey ] verb (used without object) to deviate from the direct course, leave the proper place, or go beyond the proper limits, especially without a fixed course or purpose; ramble:



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

*"Are we there yet?"*

**Though actually NOT LONG in duration,  
(James 4:13), Sometimes it seems to be ...**

Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS



**On Our Journey We  
Will Face**

Distractions / Detours /  
Wrong Turns / Pit stops /  
Other travelers ...



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

CAUTION  
ROUGH  
ROAD

On Our Journey We  
Will Face

**Difficulties** — (sometimes smooth, safe and straight - but MANY TIMES slippery, curvy, uphill and downhill - rough and dangerous - ....)



## Genesis 47:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my pilgrimage *are* one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.”

## Psalms 39:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> “Hear my prayer, O Lord, And give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I *am* a stranger with You, A sojourner, as all my fathers *were*.



# Hebrews 11:13–16 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

<sup>14</sup> For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. <sup>15</sup> And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.



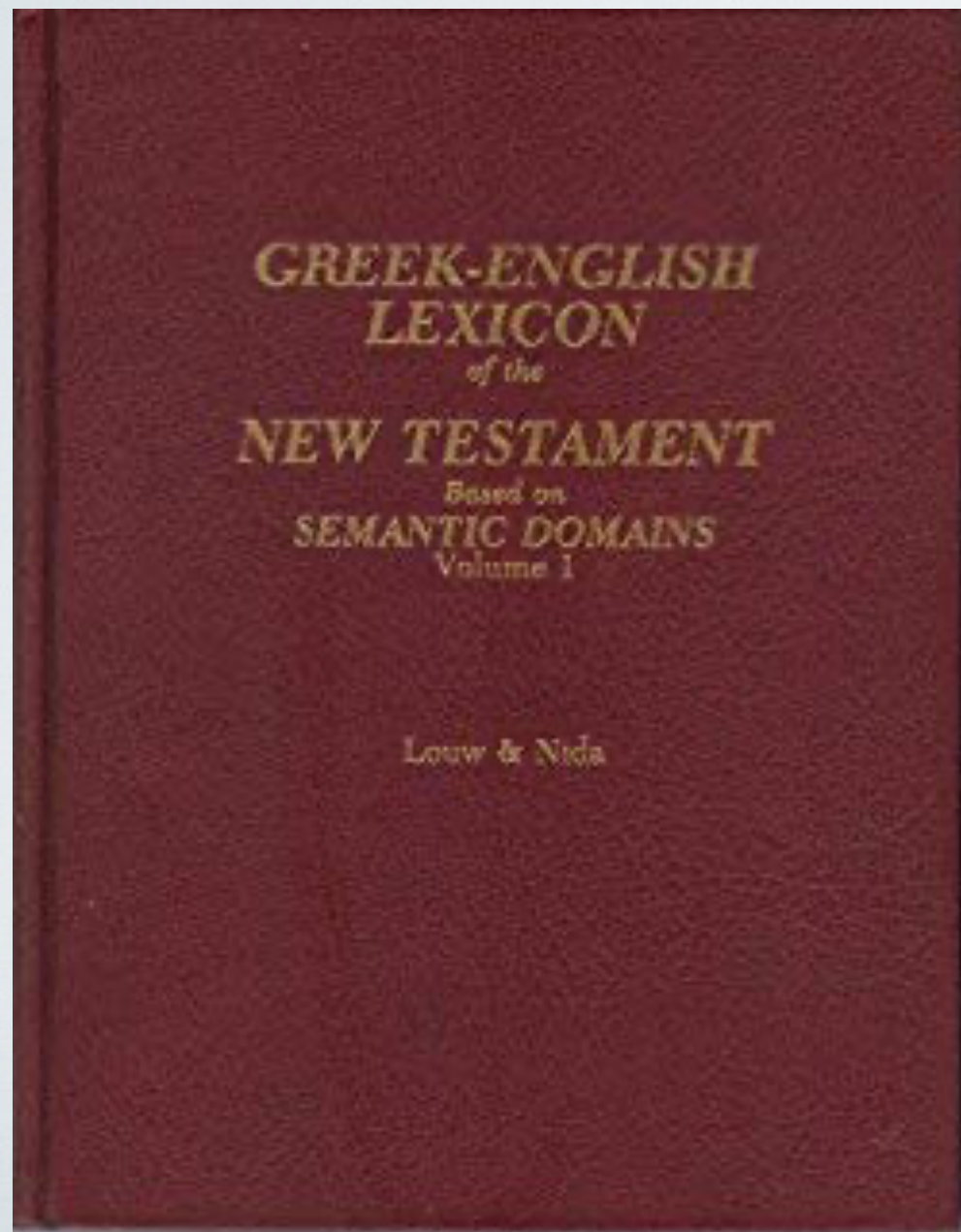
# 1 Peter 1:17; 2:11,12 (NKJV)

1:17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; ... 2:11 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

**THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME!**



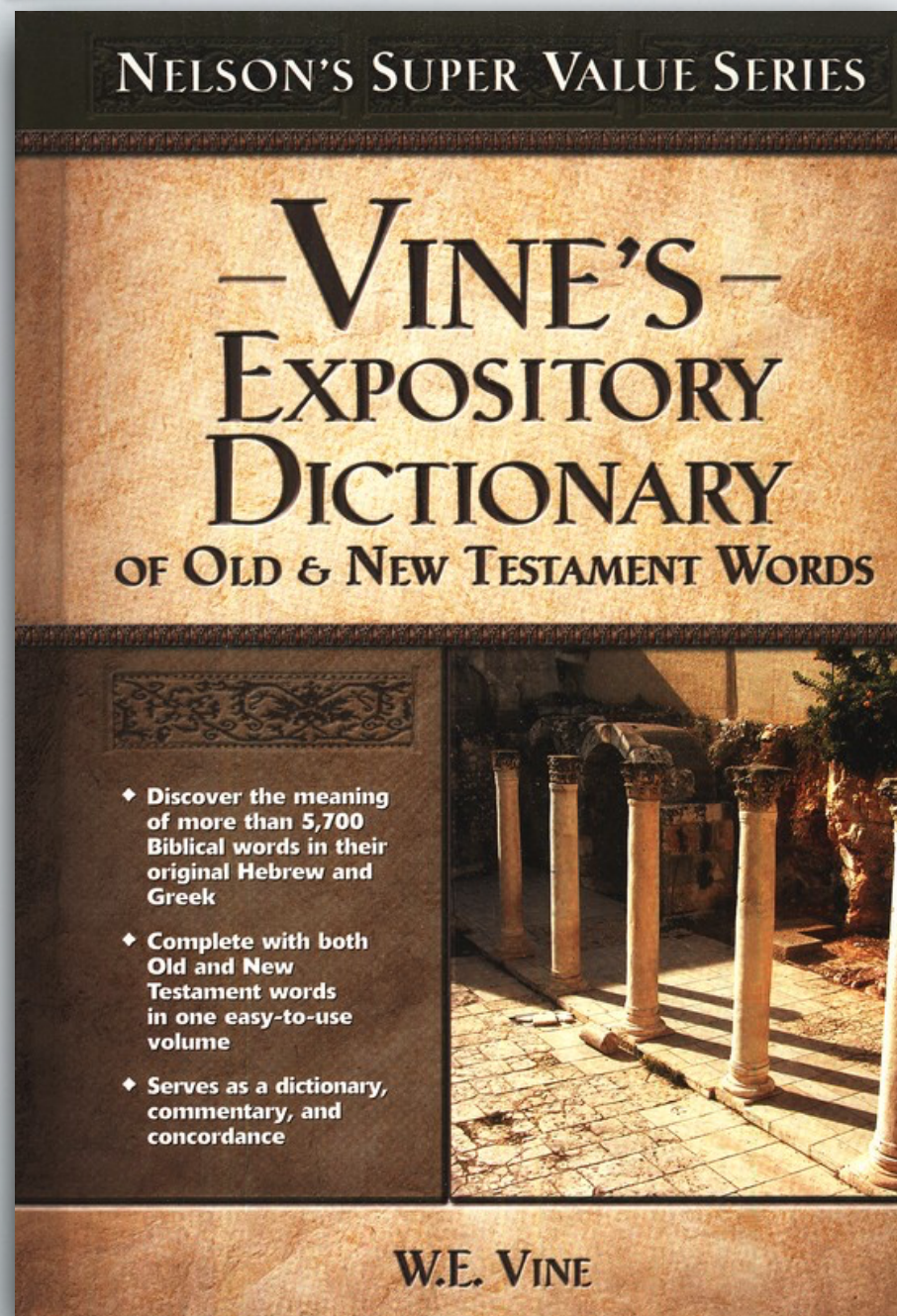
11.77 πάροικος, ου *m*;  
παρεπίδημος, ου *m*: (derivatives of  
παροικέω<sup>b</sup> and ἐπιδημέω ‘to live  
as a foreigner,’ 85.78, respectively)  
a person who for a period of time  
lives in a place which is not his  
normal residence—‘alien, stranger,  
temporary resident.’ ...

- Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.). New York: United Bible Societies.



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

**THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME!**



**PILGRIM** - *parepidemos* (παρεπίδημος, 3927), an adjective signifying “sojourning in a strange place, away from one’s own people” .... , is used of OT saints, Heb. 11:13. ... (coupled with *xenos*, “a foreigner”); of Christians, 1 Pet. 1:1, “sojourners (of the Dispersion),” *rv*; 2:11, ... (coupled with *paroikos*, “an alien, sojourner”); the word is thus used metaphorically of those to whom Heaven is their own country, and who are sojourners on earth.



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

Traveling **TROUGH** A **Dangerous** World ...

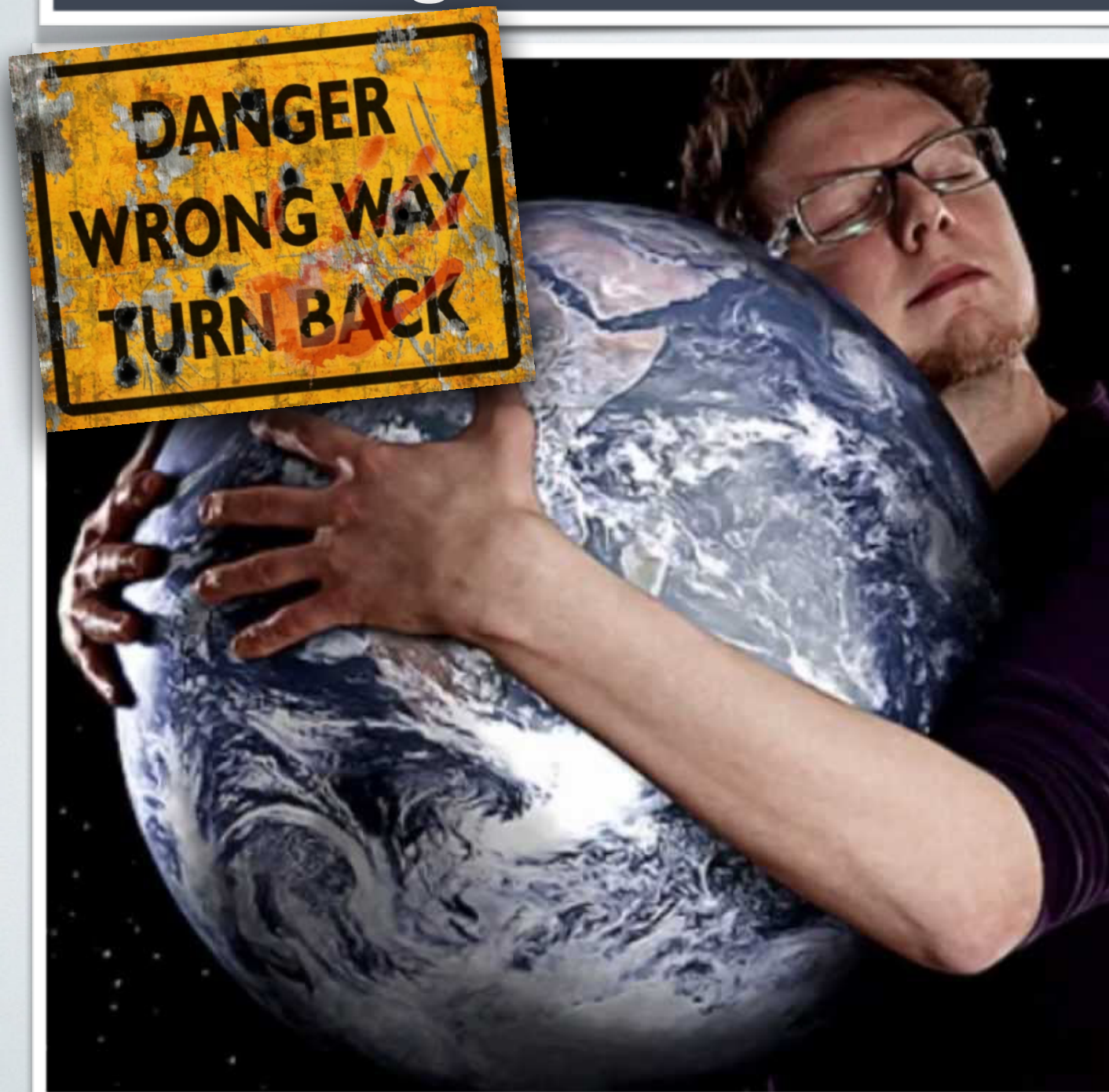


- The world has ALWAYS been a VIOLENT place - and the godly are NOT IMMUNE to being victims — Gen. 4:8; 6:5, 11; 19:4-8; Mat 26:3
- FAR MORE SERIOUS, AND THAT WHICH POSES THE GREATEST THREAT to the Christian, is the the world's ALLUREMENT — 2 John 2:15-17; Matt. 6:24; James 4:4



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

Traveling **TROUGH** A **Dangerous** World ...

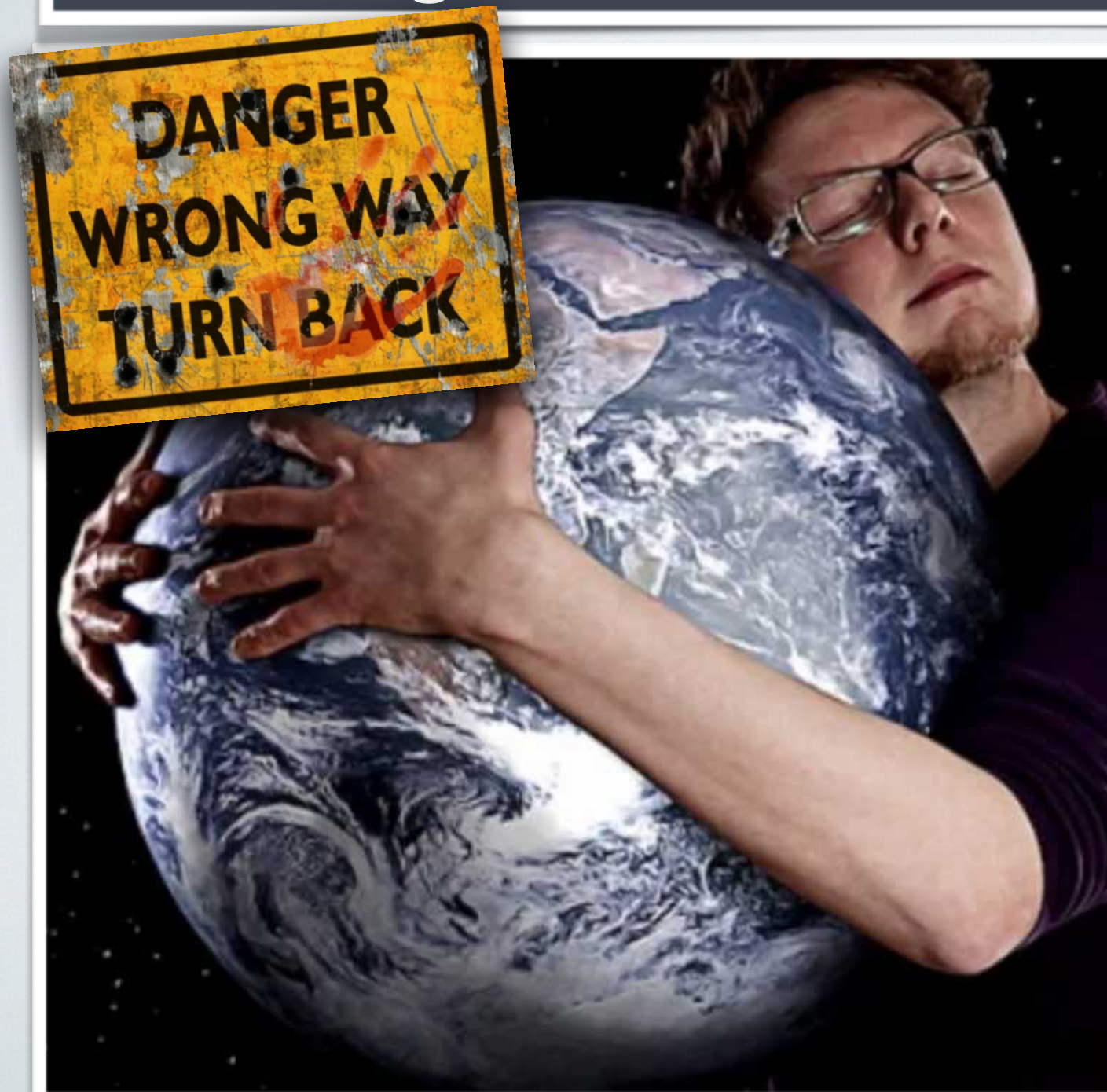


- What MAKES the world so DANGEROUS?
- ▶ The world's allurements are attractive & easy to accept, but ALWAYS harmful! — Gen. 3; Rom 6:23; Jam. 1:13-15.
- ▶ The pressure the world inflicts can make serving God painful and difficult — 2 Tim 3:12; 1 Pet 4:1-6



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

Traveling **TROUGH** A **Dangerous** World ...

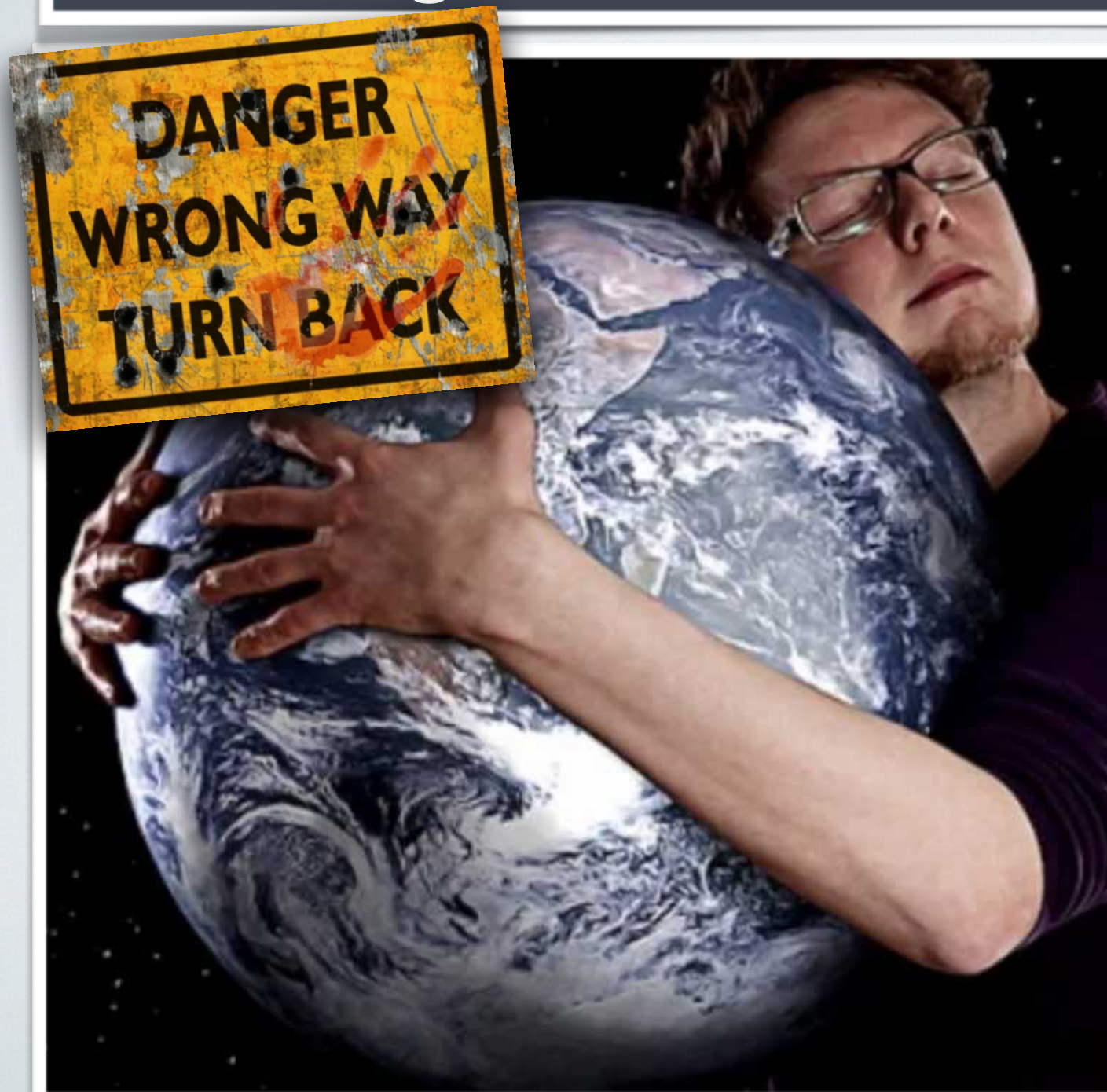


- What MAKES the world so DANGEROUS?
- ▶ Deception — Heb. 3:13
- ▶ Illusions — Heb. 11:25,26
- ▶ Immediate — Heb 11:25
- ▶ Appealing — Jam 1:14
- ▶ Easy — Heb 2:1,2
- ▶ Intimidation — 1 Pt 4:1-5
- ▶ Philosophy — Col. 2:8



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

Traveling **TROUGH** A **Dangerous** World ...



- The world is God's enemy and ours (Jas. 4:4)
- The world will mold us if NOT careful (Rom. 12:1-2)
- The world can distract us (2 Tim. 2:4; Heb 12:1)
- The world is defiled and can entangle us (2 Pet 2:20)
- The world is passing away & the worldly eternally lost (1 Jn. 2:15-17; 2 Thes 1:8,9)



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

## Traveling - Bearing A Cross ...



- Cross-bearing is a condition of discipleship (Mt. 10:38; 16:24)
- Cross-bearing calls for daily sacrifice and self-denial (Lk. 9:23; Gal 6:2)
- Cross-bearing is a personal matter (1 Cor. 9:25-27; Gal. 2:20; 6:14)
- Cross-bearing comes before crown-bearing (Heb. 12:2)



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS With The Map in Our Hand



- God's word contains the directions and instructions for our journey to guide us home (Pr 14:12; Jer. 10:23; Ps 119:19; 2 Tim 3:14-17)
- God's word provides the light for our journey through this dark world (Ps. 119:104-105; Ep. 5:13; 2 Pt 1:19)
- God's word helps us avoid deceptions, pitfalls and dangers on our journey (Ps. 119:11; Pr 2:1-22; 2 Pt 3:14-18)



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

## We Are NOT Traveling Alone



- Faithful pilgrims of the past (Heb. 11:1-12:1; Rom. 4:12; Jam 5:10, 11)
- God is with us (Deut. 31:6, 8; Josh. 1:5; Is. 41:10; Heb. 13:5)
- Jesus is by our side (Mt. 28:20; Heb. 4:16; 2 Ti. 4:17; Re. 22:21)
- Godly brethren are by our side (Gal. 6:2; 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 12:12)



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

## Fuel For Our Journey ...



- Reliant **FAITH** keeps us faithful (Rom 4:1-5; Heb 11:1-31; Ja 2:14-26;
- Genuine **LOVE** keeps us committed (Mark 12:29-31; John 14:15, 21, 23, 24; 1 Pet. 1:22)
- Fervent **ZEAL** keeps us serving (Rom. 12:11; Titus 2:14)
- One **HOPE** gives us endurance (Ro. 5:4, 5; Eph. 4:4; 1 John 3:3; Col. 1:5, 23; He. 6:18)



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

**Destination Worth Effort & Cost!**



## ■ If We Want To REACH Heaven ...

- ▶ We cannot look back (Lk. 9:62; Heb 10:32-39)
- ▶ We must look to Jesus & follow Him (John 14:1-6; Heb. 12:1-2)
- ▶ We must keep our focus on heaven (Mat. 5:19-24; Phil. 3:14-15; Col. 3:1-2; Heb. 11:10,16)



A person is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path that leads towards a bright, hazy light on the horizon. The path is flanked by grassy fields. The overall atmosphere is one of a journey or pilgrimage.

# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

**We Are ALL On A Journey  
There BUT TWO WAYS with  
ONLY TWO DESTINATIONS**

**Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.



# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

What is at the END of The Road  
You Are CURRENTLY ON?

Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.



# Here We Are But *Straying* FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11

**YOU ARE FREE TO CHOOSE,  
BUT YOU ARE NOT FREE  
NOT TO CHOOSE!**









# 1 Chronicles 29:10–15 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Therefore David blessed the Lord before all the assembly; and David said: “Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> Yours, O Lord, *is* the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all *that is* in heaven and in earth *is Yours*; Yours *is* the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all. <sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor *come* from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand *is* power and might; In Your hand *it is* to make great And to give strength to all.



# 1 Chronicles 29:10–15 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> “Now therefore, our God, We thank  
You And praise Your glorious name. <sup>14</sup>  
But who *am* I, and who *are* my people,  
That we should be able to offer so  
willingly as this? For all things *come* from  
You, And of Your own we have given  
You. <sup>15</sup> For we *are* aliens and pilgrims  
before You, As *were* all our fathers; Our  
days on earth *are* as a shadow, And  
without hope.



<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. — Hebrews 11:13–16 (NKJV)

## Charts by Don McClain

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West 65th Street church of Christ, P.O. Box

190062, Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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# Here We Are But ~~Straying~~ FAITHFUL PILGRIMS

Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11