



“Changing Heaven with Money”

Does it seem like we have endless drive to fix up—our homes, apartments, dorm rooms, cells, bedrooms, dens, nurseries and...?

Why are we talking about this—CBC infomercial on interior decorating today?

God’s pivotal instructions on fixing up our homes—might surprise you:

First, you are a sojourner ‘here’ and a citizen ‘there’ in heaven.

- Philippians 3:20:
- 1 Peter 1:1, 2:
- 1 Peter 2:11:
- **Definition:** Sojourners are temporary residents in a place that is not their home. Once we know Christ we are aliens with a green card—traveling and working at any place on the globe where we might find ourselves.
- **Application:** A sojourner should not “make himself/herself at home here.”
- **Question:** Have you ever decorated or “fixed up” a hotel room?

Second, in part we “fix up” our heavenly home with money.

- Acts 20:25-35:
- Matthew 6:19-21, 24:
- Phil 4:15-20:
- **Caution:** Don’t live for things when Jesus died for people.

Please see this: *The only thing you can take with you to heaven is a person and sometimes that costs money.*

So how should we live differently—given that we are sojourners with money?

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Please see this: *The only thing you can take with you to heaven is a person and sometimes that costs money.*

Daily readings and reflections for this week:

- **Today.** Please take some time to reflect on the “fix up your home or dorm room or apartment” things that you have done in the past year or years. What is your personal stance and heart toward fixing up your living space? Why do you think that the interior decorating industry is a multi-gazillion dollar industry? What goes on inside of us that motivates us to all this home decoration and upgrade?
- **Monday.** Please read Philippians 3:20. If your real citizenship is in heaven and you are only a business traveler with a green card here what are the implications for your financial life? ...for other aspects of your life?
- **Tuesday.** Please read 1 Peter 1:1, 2 and 2:11. What are some of the realities of being a sojourner and an alien and a person who is “scattered” rather than permanently settled? What are some of the applications or lifestyle adjustments that should result from being a sojourner and an alien and a person who is “scattered” rather than permanently settled?
- **Wednesday.** Please read Acts 20:25-35. What was Paul doing in this setting in order to take people to heaven with him? What are the various things that it was costing him to bring them to heaven with him?
- **Thursday.** Please read Matthew 6:19-21, 24. How does God want you to “serve Him with wealth” in ways that you have not been to this point in time? In what ways are you tempted to “serve wealth with God?”
- **Friday.** Please reflect on the three missionary journeys of Paul recorded in the Book of Acts. What does Paul’s lifestyle during those trips say to you about life as a temporary resident of this planet? Please reflect on Jesus’ statement that He was “homeless” (the Son of Man has no place to lay His head). What does this reality about Jesus’ lifestyle mean for us?
- **Saturday.** Please take some time for reflection and prayer around the question, “Father, what do you want me to do in order to fix up my heavenly home using earthly money?”

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org (Quick Menu / Connect / Sermon Based Small Group Material.