

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of January 21, 2024 A.D.

Aliens and Strangers in This World

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Exodus 20:1-3

1. What is your personal definition of the word "god"? Does your definition of "god" allow for the existence of many "gods"? In your personal experience, does every person have at least one god of their life? Who or what are the gods in your life?
2. Does the God who spoke the words found in Exodus 20:1-3 allow those who believe in Him to have any other gods (a) in addition to Him and/or (b) besides Him? In your personal experience, do any and/or all Christians have more than one god whom they worship and/or serve? If so, please name or identify those gods.
3. Does the God of the Bible have the right and the authority to demand obedience and worship from every human being (a) while they are alive on earth and/or (b) for both time and eternity?

Read Exodus 20:8-11

4. Has the God of the Bible revoked and/or repealed the commands which are given in these verses? Did any governmental authorities in America ever have laws to restrict or limit the types of labor and/or work which could occur on Sunday? If so, what has become of those laws, how, and why?

Read Matthew 5:17-20

5. Does God want and expect Christians to attend Sunday church services? Does God want Christians to allow their children to participate in Sunday sports, recreation, and/or non-family activities? What are the benefits (and detriments) of observing and obeying the fourth commandment (Ex. 20:8-11) and the fifth commandment (Ex. 20:12) collectively as a family unit each Sunday?

Read Matthew 22:34-40

6. Has the God of the Bible revoked and/or repealed the commands which are given in these verses? Must a Christian read, learn, and desire to apply to his or her life the teachings of the New Testament if they intend to obey these two commandments stated by Jesus?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

7. In these verses, does Jesus command his followers (a) to conduct church services and/or (b) to make disciples? Why are all disciples to be baptized? Why are all disciples to teach new disciples to obey everything that Jesus has commanded?

Read John 14:23-24

8. Can a person sincerely and truthfully state that they love God if they do not study and seek to obey the New Testament teachings of Christ and the apostles? Will the Holy Spirit take up residence within a person who does not love Jesus? Is a person condemned to hell if they do not love Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit?

Read Colossians 3:1-4

9. Is the life of every Christian "now hidden with Christ in God"? Has God made it possible for every Christian to "set your hearts on things above"? Can a person set his or her heart "on things above" if he or she does not study, learn, and obey the teachings of the New Testament?
10. In your opinion, is the mind of the typical American church attender "set on things above and not on earthly things"?

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12

11. Do aliens and strangers typically speak, act, and behave differently from the culture in which they are residing? Why are Christians commanded not to embrace the value systems of the cultures of the world? If every Christian is an alien in this material world, then where is the "homeland" of every Christian?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Christians are dead to the things of this world. Christians are eternal spiritual beings whose lives are hidden in Christ with God."

Consider: "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day . . . So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Cor. 4:16-18. You think about that. Amen.