

# Study Guide

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## BY STILL WATERS

Christian Essentials

### 7. Restless for home

The gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) has been called the ‘greatest story ever told.’ Why is it the greatest? I would say, because it is about God blessing all nations. It is about good things to come - forever. In one passage it is correctly called "the everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6). It is God's plan for blessing all of humanity for eternity. Let us begin our study Christian essentials over the next eight lessons. I call this Christian Essentials because most Christians across denominations and nations would agree with the concepts presented in this series. Here we reflect on a topic that is felt in all human hearts – a universal feeling of restlessness to find “Home.”

#### NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

I begin the first class of every course I teach by inviting students to ask any three questions they want to know about me. One question I get almost every time is, “Where are you from, sir?” I respond with a longish answer as a straight answer is usually incomplete. I answer, “I am not sure. I was born in India to a Tamil Dad and a Malayali Mom so combining them you could call me a “Talalayee.”

I grew up in 8 different states in India all having different languages. Then I lived in the US, UAE, Canada and now in Qatar. The funny thing is I feel I belong to each of these places, BUT, though they don’t say it, I know that people from each of these places would not accept I really am from that place. So, while on paper I am a Canadian citizen and an Overseas Citizen of India, the only thing I know with certainty is that “My citizenship is in heaven.”

Now while my students maybe unaware I am quoting Paul’s words in Phil 3:20, since most of them are third culture kids in Qatar, they immediately relate to my sense of estrangement and lack of belongingness to any place. But, is this the case of only third culture kids or is this feeling universal? A well-loved singer of my childhood Jim Reeves captures this feeling in his song “This world is not my home.”

Throughout the Bible one finds a longing for a place called “home.” A place where our restless hearts can find rest, peace and complete acceptance.

#### 1. Bible heroes looking for home and rest

This longing starts with Abraham and becomes a quest for a promised land under Moses and continues to this day in our hearts. There is a mention of a time in 2 Sam 7:1 when David and his kingdom enjoyed a rest, “After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him.”

#### 2. External and Internal rest

It is clear the rest David found was limited to peace from external enemies not internal attacks of his heart by Satan. So, true peace and rest requires that one gets external and internal peace through and with God. While that heaven will definitely be experienced by Jesus followers after death, how about in the here and now? Is my citizenship in heaven valid only after I die?

### 3. Experiencing God's rest on earth

We can experience it even on earth. Heaven is any place where Jesus Christ reigns in every aspect of a person's life. All one has to do is accept Jesus sovereignty and live to please Him.

If one lives by His Spirit, one will exhibit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control which will help one to be at rest and peace and pass it on to others.

It is not easy, to submit fully to the sovereignty of Jesus, but then who said getting citizenship of another country is a cakewalk?

#### REFLECTION TIME

- Do you experience a longing for home – a true sense of belonging? If yes, write down your feelings of what are the things that are missing.
- Do you agree or disagree with the statement, “*It is not easy, to submit fully to the sovereignty of Jesus, but then who said getting citizenship of another country is a cakewalk?*” Give reasons.

#### LONGING FOR BELONGING

The desire to belong is a universal human need that is found in all cultures. It's a powerful motivator that dates back to our caveman days, when belonging to a clan or tribe meant the difference in whether or not you would survive. Abraham Maslow, in his hierarchy of human needs, places belonging on the third tier. He said that an individual must satisfy his or her physiological and safety needs, before being able to love and belong.

Belonging is so important that without it we can fall into loneliness and depression which can lead to physical illness or suicide. Today we're able to get involved with social media, which simulates a sense of belonging, but it falls short. There's nothing that can replace that one-on-one bonding and friendships we form when we meet with people we enjoy in person. If you're not fulfilling your need for belonging, I encourage you to look for a group with whom you can get involved. A great place to start is by volunteering for a cause, or charity (*church*) you believe in. You'll meet like-minded people with whom you'll have an immediate connection, and you'll be doing good. Now that's a win-win! (Abridged from article by Robert Evans Wilson Jr in **Psychology Today**)

#### CONNECT WITH US

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