

## Elder Bobby Willis



Ephesians 2:19, **Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;...**”

No one wants to be made to feel as if they are a stranger or be treated like a foreigner when they are visiting in or out of our own country. The best feeling to have when you visit a church you have never been to is to be made to feel like you are at home. In our usage of the term “strangers” today they would be those whom you had never seen before and you knew nothing of them. A foreigner would simply be one from another country.

In context as taught here by the Apostle Paul, “**strangers**” were those Gentiles who were not of his family (Jewish nation) and “**foreigners**” (sojourners in a country not their home). In Acts 13:17, the people of Israel were spoken of “**...as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.**” What a deliverance to be brought out of a land where you were a stranger (non-Egyptian) and given a place to call home (Canaan). They dwelt in Egypt, not only as strangers, but also as foreigners. It was not their home and never would be. The prophet Obadiah told them they were at one time as the foreigners who had entered the gates and cast lots in Jerusalem (Obadiah 1:11).

In Hebrews 11:13, Paul spends time (in what many call the faith chapter) speaking of those faithful servants of God where faith was accounted unto them for righteousness - “**These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**” These faithful patriarchs felt to be strangers and pilgrims as they did not have what you and I have today, the blessed gospel of Jesus Christ, which tells us we are “**heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**” (Romans 8:17).

Ephesians 2:22 is such a comforting passage. We are “**builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**” Since we, as the Gentiles were, are no longer

“Strangers” and “Foreigners” then we surely should give the Lord the glory for His delivering us - **“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”** The Lord has removed all stigmas and hinderances from us as Gentiles having access to Him because we are now **“...fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;...”** **“Think About IT!”**