

StarRangers

In A Strange Land

Monday – HOSPITALITY – Romans 12:13-17 *Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;* do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.*

Paul is setting a challenge to the Romans to see each other as members of the same body. Hospitality makes for good community. We are able to bless our enemies when we never lose sight of their humanity or dignity.

Song: "Live in Harmony"

Tuesday – PEACE – 1 Thessalonians 5:13b, 15. *Be at peace among yourselves. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.*

Peace is not just being "nice." It is abandoning revenge and seeking a source of good, not just for ourselves but for all. Peace making is about seeking the good for others.

Song: "Let Peace Control the Universe"

Wednesday – GENEROSITY – 2Corinthians 9:11-12 *You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.*

Speaking of his efforts to raise money for the poor, Paul writes that generosity results in thanksgiving. We do not give in order to receive – that is not true giving – however, those who tend to give tend to get more to give. Only when we scatter seed can the harvest be plentiful.

Song: "Scatter the Seed"

Thursday – ONE IN CHRIST – Galatians 3:28-29 *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.*

You no longer have to "be like us" to "be one of us." Christ is like a coat that you put on – you do not cease to be who you are, instead you become one with others. Because we are one, we no longer see others as strangers.

Song: "One in Christ"

Friday – CITIZENS – Ephesians 2:19-20 *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.*

Reminding the Jews of their own exile, he tells them that those who do not belong have no hope. Our citizenship extends beyond our place and time. We are part of something new: peace with God and each other.

Song: "No Longer Strangers"