

SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer

DATE: August 17, 2025

SERIES: DIFFERENT

Sermon Title

“Different Home”

Introduction

This week, we continued our series called **DIFFERENT**. We all can find ourselves looking at our lives and wishing things were different. Maybe it's the circumstances we find ourselves in, choices we have made in the past, things about ourselves, or maybe even who we are as a whole. We all can feel this desire to be *different*. But it's interesting that when it comes to faith, most people don't want to be different. We would much rather go along to get along, do what the others do, and remain “content” in where we are at now. Over the course of this series, we are going to be unpacking the book of 1 Peter, and learning about what it means for things to be different, not just in our lives but in our faith. This week we are learning how the living hope we have in Jesus provides us a different perspective on this temporary home and fixes our eyes on our **DIFFERENT HOME**. To get started, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- How many different places have you lived in your life? Which of those places has felt the most like “home”?

Seek the Word

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2 and 1 Peter 2:11 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does it mean that we are “exiles”, “temporary residents”, and “foreigners”?
- What does it mean to say “this world is not my home”? How have you seen this way of thinking affect how you see the world around you?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What is this “living hope” that Peter talks about? How does this hope contrast the other things we put our hope in?
- Why is it significant that Peter uses the word “inheritance” to describe this living hope? What does this language bring to mind as you think about what is promised in this passage?

Read 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does it mean to be “living stones” in God's spiritual temple? How does this metaphor help us understand the role of the church and our role in the church?
- Peter says that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. All of these descriptors are plural, describing a group of people. Why is this an important emphasis compared to individual identities?

Going Deeper

- How would you describe to someone that is not a Christian that this world is not our true home and that heaven is? What convictions about this do you have that would relate to someone who does not share our faith yet?

Talk About It

- When you think about the world we live in and the struggles and trials we experience on Earth, what are the things that you notice that make you long for our eternal home? How do you balance being excited about what is to come while being content in what God has planned for you here?
- What is the difference between using “this world is not my home” as an excuse to disengage versus using it as motivation to live differently?
- The sermon had the analogy of a bumpy plane ride to Hawaii. How does this illustration help us understand the relationship between current struggles and external hope?

Wrap Up

Reminder: **We have a different hope because we have a DIFFERENT HOME.** Our lives here on Earth are temporary, and it is an innate part of all of us to see things around us that we wish weren't so and long for something better. For those of us who know the promise from God for our true and eternal home, He has us here as temporary residents for a purpose. While some might get beaten down by the brokenness of our “home”, we are charged to show them the living hope that we have in Christ... and as the church we ought to be an example of that DIFFERENT Home to those in the here and now. The church is a place to belong and help others belong as we journey together toward our eternal home.

Challenge for the Week: Be the Church

This week, identify one person in your sphere of influence who might feel “invisible” or disconnected, and take a specific action to help them feel seen and welcomed into community.

Prayer: Close by praying for each other to maintain an eternal perspective while facing earthly challenges, and for opportunities to help others find their place of belonging in God's family.