

## Tourists or Pilgrims

**T**HESE all died in the faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (Hebrews 11: 13, NKJV)

Are you a pilgrim or a tourist on this earth? Tourists want everything to go exactly the way they have planned and imagined. Seized by a fear of missing out, they go from one place to the next trying to cram everything in. They are constantly buying souvenirs and knickknacks. Tourists get upset if there are delays. Tourists go sightseeing. Tourists calculate costs.

Pilgrims are very different. They look for signs. Pilgrims look for meaning. Pilgrims count their blessings. The reality is, we are all pilgrims. a pilgrim understands that this planet earth is not our home. We are just passing through. Life is a pilgrimage.

What is a pilgrimage? It is a spiritual journey to a sacred destination. Every Sunday you make a pilgrimage to your church for worship and the Word. As you enter into His presence with thanksgiving and praise (Psalm 100: 4) a deep, spiritual encounter is waiting for you.

Some ask God for a favor, perhaps to heal a loved one who is sick. Others make a pilgrimage in thanksgiving for a particular blessing that they have received. Sometimes people enter into His courts seeking clarity on some decision they have to make. It is so easy to get caught up in the things of this world and forget that we are on pilgrimage and this world is not our home.

This is why a pilgrimage of faithful church attendance is so important—it re-centers your vision of pilgrimage. The apostle Paul admonishes us in Hebrews 10: 25, "...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but exhorting one another and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

This life is a journey toward that sacred city, and daily toward the heart of God. But, praise the Lord, no one makes this pilgrimage alone. Jesus is walking with you daily. For He told His disciples just before He ascended into heaven in Matthew 28: 20, "...I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

The Lord admonished Joshua in Deuteronomy 31: 8, "And the LORD, His is the One who goes before you, He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake; do not fear nor be dismayed."

Now, let me ask you again: Are you a pilgrim or a tourist? May Jesus share with you the grace to adopt the heart and spirit of a pilgrim.

the **word**

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[churchoflifeandpraise.com](http://churchoflifeandpraise.com)



join us

321 State Street  
Ellsworth, ME 04605

contact us

207.667.4308

[pastor@churchoflifeandpraise.com](mailto:pastor@churchoflifeandpraise.com)



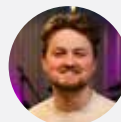
**James Heard**

senior pastor



**Ray Stephens**

assistant to the pastor

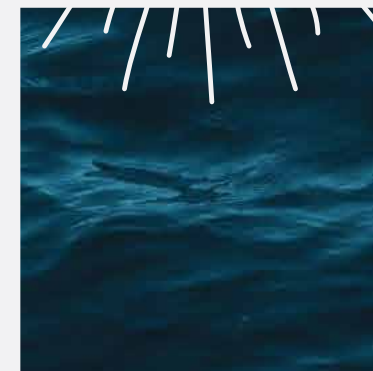
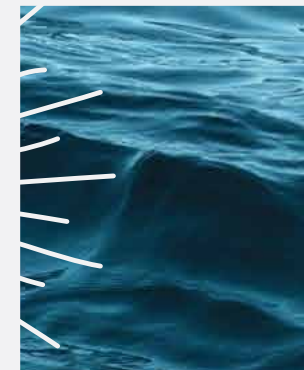
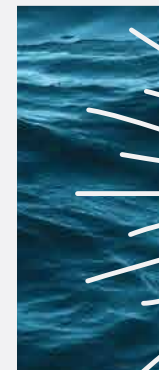


**Alec Leathers**

youth pastor



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