

# Resting, Journeying

## Thoughts about the Bible Verse 2013

Text: Bastian Fähnrich

[Picture](#): Dorothee Krämer



The Bible verse for this year 2013 reads as follows in Hebrews 13:14:

*“Here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.” (ESV)*

*“This world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.” (NLT)*

At the moment I am sitting in an armchair in the living room of our new home. Hanna and Samuel also like this place very much. Here on the chair or on the sofa we can take a rest, have a good read or just let our thoughts wander. Outside, on the other side of the door and the windows decorated with straw stars, it is snowing thick flakes. It's rather cozy inside, a place of peace.

It occurs to me that our family has finally come home. We are now able to rest after the uneasiness and unrest, the moving around of the past years. I thank God for this home. For the four walls, but above all for my two beloved housemates.



However, a moment ago I read the news and realised again that there is so much strife and calamity in people's homes. Many people simply do not even have a home. I wish that such a peaceful home as ours would also be possible for other people in this world.

Right across the floor from where I am sitting is a provisional nativity scene with Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Beside them is a self-made miniature Christmas tree with small lights in it. I suddenly begin to realise that the figurines do not have a roof over their heads.

Well, a roof is not needed either. For the peace of Christ does not require a shelter or just a single place to stay. It should not only stay in one place, but reach out into the world together with the message of salvation, and be accessible to everyone living on this earth.

As we know from the Bible and history, Jesus soon had to leave his place of birth, the manger and the city of Bethlehem and flee to Egypt. His life journey led him through much trouble, and eventually to the cross and back to heaven, the sanctuary we can only imagine during our life time here on earth.

Christ did not have a permanent home on this earth during his life here. He travelled about and kept journeying from place to place to heal people and bring the message of salvation. On his way he left traces of light wherever he went, such a bright light that no one had seen its like before.



Jesus died for our sins on the cross, in front of the city gates of Jerusalem. Through his death and resurrection he has given us a safe home, a home with himself, in God, here on earth. Moreover, Christ has paved for us the way to heaven, to the eternal city, eternal home and sanctuary.

Like Jesus we Christians do not have a permanent home, a permanent city or any other place in this world for all eternity. But we do have Jesus, who is always and forever with us and dwells in us through the Holy Spirit.

The Bible verse 2013 reads in the context of Hebrews 13:12-14 (NIV, ESV):

*“Jesus suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the disgrace he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.”*

We are called to share Jesus’ message of salvation and peace, to go with Christ on his way of suffering, the path Jesus chose and has already gone on ahead. We receive from Jesus his resurrection power for our journey, for the sharing and the suffering. We get the direction we need through the Holy Spirit and Word of God. We cannot simply stay in our homes or churches, but are required to go boldly on, out into this world of ours.

Let us be the light of Christ in our homes, in our church, in our city. Let us be his light in our resting and in our journeying from place to place. May we leave traces of Jesus' light and love on our way. Let us pick up Jesus' cross, and help other people in accordance to his example – in word and deed, through prayer, Bible reading and works of love.

Let us stay faithful to Jesus in following him. I pray that we are also able to follow Christ and dwell in him in times of trouble in our lives and in this world. Let us always fix our eyes on Jesus, and seek and look forward to the city in heaven. In the city to come there will be no pain, no sorrow or unrest, but bright joy and peace in the sight of God, the heavenly Father.

Amen.



## Outline for Worship Service, 13 January 2013

Welcome and Opening Prayer (Bastian)

1. We have come into his house (729)

Bible reading (Psalm 84, Hanna)

2. Majesty (454)

Children's Address, Story about the little Christmas tree (Hanna)

3. O come let us adore him (490)

Sermon (Bastian, Bible verse 2013, Hebrews 13:14)

4. From Heaven you came (162)

Intercessory Prayers (Hanna & Bastian)

5. O come, o come, Emmanuel (493)

6. Benediction

### Intercessory Prayers

Dear Father.

Jesus said...

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Help us to be empty for you.

Give us the wisdom to need you,  
to come to you in our poverty of spirit.

Song

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Father, give us humility.  
Help us to seek a home in you,  
to find our safety in your love,  
to trust you with our whole heart.

Song

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst  
for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
Father, help us to thirst for you,  
to thirst for Jesus, to thirst for the Holy Spirit.  
Help us not to fear difficult times,  
for they are only an opportunity to know you in  
a deeper way.

Song

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Father, fill us with your love and mercy  
and help us to love this hungry, troubled world  
with your love - mercifully.

Song

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
Father, help us to seek you, to read your Word,  
to want to get to get to know you.  
Help us to see you.  
Help us also not to fear death -  
but to trust that Jesus is preparing a home for  
us with you.  
Thankyou for our heavenly home.

-Amen.