

“Interventions”



True Christians: the Soul of the World and Preservers of the World Cosmological and Social Consequences of the Resurrection

Christians are distinguished from the rest of mankind neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. For they neither inhabit cities of their own, nor employ a peculiar form of speech, nor lead a life which is marked out by any singularity.

Inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determined, and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, **they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life.**



They dwell in their own countries, but simply as **sojourners.**

As citizens, they share in all things with others, and yet **endure all things as if foreigners.** Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland is foreign.

They are in the flesh, but **they do not live after the flesh.** They pass their days on earth, but **they are citizens of Heaven.**

They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time **surpass the laws by their lives.**

They love all men, and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death, and restored to life.

They are poor, yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things, and yet abound in all.

In sum, **what the soul is in the body, Christians are in the world.** The soul is dispersed through all the members of the body, and Christians are scattered through all the cities of the world.

The soul is imprisoned in the body, yet preserves that very body; and **Christians** are confined in the world as in a prison, and yet they are **preservers of the world.** The immortal soul dwells in a mortal tabernacle; and **Christians dwell as sojourners in corruptible [bodies], looking for an incorruptible dwelling in the heavens.**

The Epistle to Diognetus

Presented by:

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† Great and Holy Saturday