

# A Foot in Two Worlds

When my wife and I retired (2015), we bought 40 acres in the mountains and prepared to build a house. For 8 months we lived in an RV while building the house. The RV was wonderful. In fact, I have to remember that even living in an RV is more luxurious than what many people throughout the world experience. But, quite honestly, we were looking forward to moving out of the RV and into the new house.

We finally got our official “Certificate of Occupancy” which allowed us to move into the new house and out of the RV. However, there was still a lot to do in the house. There was much finishing work to do which created dust and mess. Moving in would mean that we would be constantly shoving furniture around to work on various areas of the house. But, we found an interim compromise. We moved in the bed and some minimal stuff so we could take showers in the new house, sleep and have coffee in the morning. We still had to do a bit of furniture shuffling, but it was worth it. We felt like we had our feet in two worlds, one that we were leaving behind (the RV) and one that we were moving toward (the new house). It was a bit of a hassle but we could continually see progress and were looking forward to the day when we were completely moved in.

In our spiritual lives, we also feel the tension of having a foot in two worlds – the kingdom of the world and the Kingdom of God. We have to attend to material things while also trying to continue to move forward growing in our spiritual life. Finding the right balance is never easy, but it’s important to continually work on it.

Christ taught us a lot about this reality of having a foot in two worlds. He talked about weeds and wheat, sheep and goats, light and dark, yeast and dough. He acknowledged the reality that the Kingdom currently coexists with the earthly kingdom of darkness. But, this is only a temporary thing. The day will come when we get to “move in” to the Kingdom of heaven full time. Christ gives us a message of hope for the future to encourage us to keep things in the right perspective while we are still living on this earth. He tells us to lay up treasures in heaven and to not be obsessed with the things of this temporary world.

Each of us has to find our own way to get the right balance. For years, my wife and I have been simplifying our lifestyles. We call it “decluttering”; getting rid of stuff and activities that were really of no spiritual value and were just distracting us from focusing on seeking the Kingdom. This effort has had a huge benefit for us. We’re not where we need to be yet, but we’re making progress.

I guess I could say that, while I still have a foot in two worlds, I am looking forward to the day when Christ comes back to reign and take us to our new, permanent home.

When I lose sight of this promise, I get sucked back into the cares of this world. When I remember this future reality, I enjoy the peace that Christ promised while I wait for his return. When he does return, what a great moving day that will be! Both of my feet will then be firmly planted in the Kingdom of God.