

***Foreigners Welcome! (Luke 17:16-18 & Isaiah 66:18-23)***

Introduction: *My 1991 experience when I moved to Canada:  
Foreigners welcome?*

I. A MAJOR THEME OF THE BIBLE: ***FOREIGNERS WELCOME***

- A. Note the Old Testament: Isaiah 66:18-23; 11:10; 42:6; 60:3
- B. Note the New Testament: Matt. 2:1-2; 8:11; Luke 10:30-37; 17:16-17
- C. Note the first Church controversy: **are foreigners welcome?**  
(Acts 15)

II. THE GOSPEL IS INTENDED FOR EVERYONE

- A. Romans 3:23
- B. Romans 6:23
- C. 2 Peter 3:9

III. HAVING ***FOREIGNERS*** IN OUR MIDST IS AT TIMES

NOT VALUED

- A. Cultural differences
- B. Anxiety due to the unknown
- C. Looking back to the “good old days”
- D. Congregational challenges & opportunities

IV. BUT WHO IS ***THE FOREIGNER??***

- A. We were once foreigners to God’s Kingdom  
(Isaiah 11:42; 60; 66; Matthew 8)
- B. Our sin also makes us “foreigners” (Rom. 5:6-8)
- C. Jesus is at our side as we reach out to “foreigners”
- D. God’s love and forgiveness draws us foreigners to the Cross

Conclusion: *A vision of heaven: a crowd of “foreigners”*  
**(Rev. 7:9-12)**

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