

HEAVEN – WHERE WE BELONG

Monday, May 11th 2020

Philippians 3:17-4:1

“Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!”

Do you feel like you are **standing firm in the Lord**, leaning on the truth that **your citizenship is in Heaven**, and not in this world? Take a moment to reflect. There are certainly many Christians who have this on their minds daily, who then out of this truth naturally lead a supernatural life, bringing others God’s deep, joyful and healing love. Are you one of them?

What were your first thoughts this morning? Was it about what’s for breakfast? How to solve that problem you’re having at work? Maybe how excited you are to call your friend later?

Did it once cross your mind that you are a citizen of Heaven? That’s definitely the most exciting truth of the day! Heaven is your true home, not this broken world! You didn’t even wake up at home today. You woke up here, on this Earth; the one that God hasn’t renewed yet to dwell with His people forever – to dwell with you forever!

Paul wants the Philippians and us to grasp this profound truth because he knows how often we forget it, and what the consequences can be. We often think about how we can make the rest of our life great; as the saying goes, “YOLO!” But this leads to the behavior Paul laments over in the beginning; people following destructive behaviors, even becoming enemies of the cross, because behavior comes from our beliefs, and our beliefs come from what we focus on.

How can you shift your focus today onto Jesus and His gift to us of heavenly citizenship? Thank God in a creative way and encourage at least one other brother or sister today the same way Paul did: remind them of this amazing promise we have from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Prayer: *Father, thank You for reminding us of the truth today that we belong to You, and that Jesus will unite us with You in Heaven. Spirit, help us understand this truth more deeply not only today, but every day as we get closer and closer to Jesus’ return. Please lay one of our brothers and sisters on my heart who needs this encouragement today. Amen.*

-Tony Grigg-

