

Our Citizenship Is In Heaven

Reading: [Ephesians 2:11-22](#)

Text: [Philippians 3:20](#)

Introduction:

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Defines: "Citizen"

"an inhabitant of a city or town; especially : one entitled to the rights and privileges of a freeman"

[Philippians 3:20-21](#) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

This is Paul's Motivational Reason For The First Part Of The Next Chapter!

1. We Are Citizens So, Agree In The Lord

One "blessing and curse" our country has is "freedom of speech." It is a blessing because we can say whatever we want. It is a curse because others can say whatever they want. When I first saw a flag being burned on national television and seemingly nothing was being done about it, I thought we're in for trouble.

The same thing is true of Christianity, if we are not united in the Lord, WE are in trouble!

- It hurts our ability to support one another
- It hurts our ability to influence those outside the body
- It especially hurts our relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Paul had said:

[Philippians 1:27-28](#) Only let your manner of life be **worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are **standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel**, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

- It is one reason for Jesus' prayer in [John 17](#) listen to some selected quotes:

[John 17:11](#) ...**keep them in your name**, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

[John 17:20-23](#) "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, **so that the world may believe that you have sent me**. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, **so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me**.

- There's more N.T. teaching on this, but: **We Are Citizens So, Agree In The Lord**

2. We Are Citizens So, Rejoice In The Lord

Do We Have Reasons To Rejoice As American Citizen? Sure.

- Freedom of speech.
- Freedom to drive between states!
- Compare our grocery stores or likely any of our stores to many other countries

Do We Have Reasons To Rejoice As Citizens of Heaven? Absolutely!

- "The Lord is at hand" [Philippians 4:5](#) he could come at any time! **Citizens of Heaven** rejoice!
- We have NOTHING to fear! [Philippians 4:6](#)
 - a. If we live, we live for Christ; if we die we will be with Him!

[Romans 14:7-9](#) For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

- b. Is it an outrageous thing to desire to be with the Lord?

[2 Corinthians 5:7-9](#) for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

- c. "Being with the Lord" is THE reason why we can be comforted at death! [1 Thess. 3:18](#)

- **The peace of God!** [Philippians 4:7](#)

- a. We are talking here about more than just "peace and quiet."

- b. This peace keeps us calm when the trials of life trouble us!

- c. We have this peace because when we worry, God is with us; like a father with a child!

I remember going swimming with my kids. Joe would not jump in the water, until I went over to where he was and got in the water and reached up to him and then he jumped! It was a worry for him, but he would do it with me there. Now, **he** will jump off cliffs into the water and **I** don't like it!

3. We Are Citizens So, Think Like The Lord

What Do American Citizens Think About?

- Every year we think about our beginnings on **July 4th**.
- Every year we think about our **presidents**, our **veterans**, and our **honored dead**.

As Citizens of Heaven:

[Philippians 4:8](#) ...think about **these** things

- We need to think like the Lord, think about heavenly things.
- We need to think about those things that would help us in our heavenly anticipation! Remember [v. 5](#): "The Lord is at hand."
- We can do that by reading God's word. We can read materials, listen to songs or talks that have good thoughts, or movies or shows that make us think more about spiritual things and avoid things that don't! We can spend time in prayer in fellowship with God or in fellowship with others that desire the same things!
- Many people only want things that are exciting or entertaining. Our kids are so busy nowadays with school activities, homework, sports or band, are they taught to take time to "think about these things?"

4. We Are Citizens So, Live In The Lord.

[Philippians 3:9](#) "practice these things."

- These things are not just simply something to think about, these things are something to DO!
- We can't practice them, if we don't think about them, but once we've thought about them, let's DO them! Let's be like Christ, have his mind, and live His life! Because we are Citizens of Heaven!