

Our Citizenship is in Heaven

Philippians 3:15-21

August 13, 2023

Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. ¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:15-21

Review (week before last) Adding to salvation – by faith alone – I can't save myself – God's righteousness

Last week – Paul hadn't perfected it, he knew it and told the Church. What he and the others were to do was to forget the past and press on towards the future.

This week – Where is our citizenship? Is it with the Lord and in heaven or on this earth?

Aliens and strangers/vapor, here today and gone tomorrow.

Therefore (since we are saved by faith alone and because of Jesus and faith we can leave the past behind and push forward, we must be mature and careful to know we are God's child and that our citizenship is in heaven, while being aware of the enemies of the Cross.)

Be mature - verse 15

Continual growth. Daily and moment by moment repentance will be more and more true as we grow in Christ. As we mature and learn we realize just how much we didn't know (growing opinions of dad).

Walk by Faith and Truth – verse 16

Up to this point, not fully attaining!

Follow those examples who have gone before us – verse 17! Can we say “Follow me.”?

Test yourself

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

1 John 2:18-19

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Matthew 7:21

Warning of those “inside the Church”!

May look the part or even “made a profession.” Profession, for professions sake doesn’t = possession!

**Enemies of the Cross of Christ 1 John 2:4
End is destruction
god is their belly
Glory is in their shame
Set their mind on earthly things.**

Why are they “enemies of the Cross”?

They don’t believe the Gospel in its entirety.

They add Jesus \pm to be saved. Not that if I have trusted Jesus then such and such will be true.... but to be saved it is Jesus + this or that.

No self-denial (be you, live your truth, be true to you)

Christ hurts their pride.

The Gospel is too simple¹.

Marks of a follower of Christ

Saved by faith alone.

Die to self.

Convicted

A continuous battle.

Fellowship with the Lord.

Fellowship with others.

Fruit bearer

Prayer Focus:

- **Am I maturing in the faith?**
- **Am I an enemy or friend/child of God?**
- **Is there evidence of the Lord working in my life?**

¹ Charles Spurgeon on Philippians 3:18-21