

Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ 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.

4 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved

The Joy of a Heavenly Citizenship



In this section of Philippians Paul reminds the brethren that they have a citizenship in Heaven. There are four major thoughts that come from this text

A. R_____ and F_____ those who are heading the right direction

1. Imitate Me (4:9; 1 Cor 11:1; Acts 26:29)
2. Watch those who are walking according to the example
NAS: according to the _____

B. Not everyone is going the _____ direction (18-19)

- He has identified this in several places
1:15; 2:21; 3:2
- This was
bothering Paul (_____)

Four Characteristics

- Enemies of the _____
- _____ is destruction
- God is their _____
- _____ minded

C. In contrast, "But," our citizenship is in _____ (20)

- Moffatt: *We are a colony of Heaven*
- Philippi was a Roman colony. It was considered a little Rome. Others said, "It was Rome away from Rome."

1. Being a citizen brings privileges and responsibilities
 - This is where we belong. Our home.
 - Since of patriotism and honor to your country

2. Three Coming Realities

- (a) Jesus is _____: we await (20) - 1 Cor 11:26
- (b) He will _____ us (21) - 1 Jn 3:2
- (c) This is accomplished by His _____ (21)

D. Remain _____ in the Lord (4:1)

- stand firm (1 Cor 15:58; Eph 6:11,13,14)

1. This is accomplished by staying c_____ to God's word and following the _____ of those who are walking according to the pattern

What are the Advantages of Belonging to Heaven?

1. God is our Father:
2. Names written in book of Life:
3. Connected to the people of God:
4. Honor of God's blessings and promises:

Paul's Five Powerful Descriptions of Fellowship

1. My _____
2. Whom I _____
3. I _____ for
4. My _____
5. My _____