

Philippians 3 • Our Citizenship is in Heaven

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ “Our citizenship is in heaven” (3:20). Let’s think about that phrase together. What is “citizenship”? If I’m a “citizen”...
- ▶ How can our citizenship be “in heaven”? How is that possible, and how should it shape the way I live right now?
- ▶ Citizens of heaven “rejoice in the Lord” (3:1). Why? What does that mean? How is it different from the joy that others who don’t know the Lord experience?
- ▶ Citizens of heaven also “look out for” certain things. Like what?
- ▶ Citizens of heaven are worshipers (3:3). Why?
- ▶ In your own words, what does it mean to “glory in Christ Jesus” (3:3)?

faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

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.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Why don't citizens of heaven put "confidence in the flesh" (3:3)?
- ▶ Why had Paul decided *not* to "put confidence in the flesh" (3:4-11)?
- ▶ In what ways do citizens of heaven have to "press on" to make this same goal their own (3:12)?
- ▶ What sort of things do citizens of heaven need to forget (3:13)?
- ▶ Why do citizens of heaven need to "strain forward to what lies ahead" (3:13)? What does that make you think of? How can we do that?
- ▶ Citizens of heaven imitate the right sort of examples (3:17-19). Why? What difference do the right examples make in our lives?
- ▶ What have we learned from Philippians 3? Living like a citizen of heaven this week is going to involve...