

CITIZENSHIP

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to look at the subject of “Citizenship”. Most that will read this article are citizens of the United States, a few maybe a citizen of another country. Thus we know that being a citizen of a country has both privileges as well as responsibilities (the later is often forgotten by many in our society today).

Though much could be said about this earthly citizenship (and no doubt needs to be said) I want to look at another type of citizenship. The Word of God the Bible speaks of a “Heavenly Citizenship”. The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 3:20-21, “For our *citizenship* is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 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.”

This citizenship that the Bible speaks of is one that every child of God (born again Christian) has a part in. One becomes a “citizen of Heaven when he or she repents of their sin and turns in faith to Jesus Christ and trusts Him as Lord and Savior. It will not be fully realized until that day when you take your last breath here on earth and your first one in Heaven.

Like our earthly citizenship, the Heavenly citizenship has both privileges and responsibilities. The privileges include but not limited to a transformation of our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body; eternal life, assurance of Heaven when you die; the King of Heaven to watch over you now; His guidance, direction, and provision in this life; and much more.

The responsibilities are great also, they include: being an ambassador of Jesus to this lost and dying world; accurately representing Him to those in this life; living a life that reflects the character and truth of Jesus Christ and more. The verses that precede the afore mentioned verses attest to this. Phil 3:17-20, “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 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: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.”

How descriptive are these words of many who “claim” to be Christians yet live like this in our day. Those who are living solely for themselves, where pleasing oneself is the ultimate and many times the only objective in life.

There are many people in the Bible who chose to live their lives as true representatives of Heaven. The Book of Hebrews chapter 11 gives us the most concise list of many of them. The following is but a sampling, Heb. 11:13-16, “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

Heb. 11:24-27, “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than

the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”

What best describes the direction and purpose of your life dear ones? Is it for self and your satisfaction or is it for the glory of God? Where is your citizenship?

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