

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

SINGING: 392:1, 2, 5 – 29:1-3 – 287:1-3 – 132:1, 2, 5

LET'S STUDY PHILIPPIANS (29)

The Reflections of a Heavenly Citizen I. The fact II. The Longing III. The hope

I. THE FACT OF BEING A HEAVENLY CITIZEN

A. "For our conversation is in heaven" is an argument for others follow him (17)

1. The meaning of 'conversation' in this verse is not like the usual one (Phil. 1:17; Gal. 1:13; Eph. 2:3; 4:22; 1 Tim. 4:12)

2. This weighty fact is independent of where you live now – feel now
a. we live now in reality (experience) of 2 Cor. 4:7-11; 5:2; Phil. 3:10-14

b. yet we are now also citizens of heaven (20a; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19)

B. Reflecting on this 'fact of truth' is to spur us on to follow Paul's example

1. Do we strive to live like citizens of our new homeland? (Phil. 2:5; 14-16)

2. Do we make use of our privileges as citizens of heaven while still here?

a. consider the gems of truth in Romans 5:1-2

II. THE LONGING OF THE HEAVENLY CITIZEN

A. The longing of Paul and early Christians was focused on the return of Jesus

1. Is this our vision now as well: *looking for our Savior, the Lord Jesus?*

a. 1 Cor. 17; Titus 2:13; 2 Thess 3:5; 2 Peter 3:12, 14

b. What is the most cardinal doctrine of the New Testament?

B. What is the chief longing of heavenly citizen?

C. What will happen when we see Him in all His glory upon return?

1. We shall be like Him: vs. (1 John 3:2)

a. our vile body will be changed (*lit. "body of our humiliation"*)

b. we will be fashioned like Jesus' glorious body (1 Cor. 15:51, 52)

2. Then our 'communion with God and saints and angels will be perfect

III. THE HOPE OF THE HEAVENLY CITIZEN

A. The hope of this future transformation is *on solid ground*: vs. 21b

1. Jesus' promises: Acts 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Peter 3:13

- T. Brooks: *A man were better to say there is no God, then say that God is unfaithful.*

2. Jesus' Divine power: Matt. 28:18; John 1:3; Eph. 1:20-22

3. What is the solid evidence of the hope of this future transformation?

a. His miracles while on earth: John 11:43; 20:30-31

b. His resurrection from the dead: John 10:18; Rom. 1:4; Rev. 1:17-18

THOUGHTS TO PONDER ON HEAVEN

Those who are acquainted with God and Christ
are already in the suburbs of life eternal. (M. Henry)

My whole outlook upon everything that happens to me should be governed by these three things: my realization of who I am (my identity in Christ), my consciousness of where I am going, and my knowledge of what awaits me when I get there. (D. M Lloyd-Jones)

When I get to heaven, I shall three wonders. The first one will be to see many people whom I did not expect to see. The second wonder will be to miss many whom I did expect to see. The third and greatest wonder of all will be to find myself there. (John Newton)

Heaven will offset any loss we may suffer to gain it. But nothing will offset the loss of heaven. (R. Baxter)