

# Philippians Daily Walk

## Theme 4: Identity

### Day 5 — Philippians 3:20

#### Citizens of Heaven

#### Key Scripture

*"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." — Philippians 3:20*

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#### Introduction

People often find identity in where they live, the nation they belong to, their culture, or their background. While these things are important, Paul reminds believers that there is an even greater identity that shapes who we are.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are citizens of heaven.

This does not mean we ignore our responsibilities on earth. Rather, it means our ultimate loyalty, hope, values, and future are rooted in God's Kingdom. We live in this world, but we do not belong to it.

Paul wanted the Philippian believers to remember that their true home was not Rome, Philippi, or any earthly nation. Their real citizenship was in heaven. This truth gave them hope during difficult times and helped them maintain an eternal perspective.

In a world focused on temporary things, Christians are called to live with eternity in view.

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## **Scripture Focus**

### **Philippians 3:20**

*"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."*

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## **Historical Context**

Philippi was a Roman colony, and its citizens took great pride in their Roman citizenship. Roman citizenship brought special privileges, protections, and status.

Paul uses this familiar concept to teach a spiritual truth.

Just as Roman citizens lived according to Roman laws and customs even while living far from Rome,

Christians are called to live according to the values of God's Kingdom while living in this world.

Paul contrasts heavenly citizenship with the earthly-minded people described in Philippians 3:18-19, whose focus was on temporary pleasures and worldly desires.

Believers, however, are called to live differently because their true home is with Christ.

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## **What This Passage Teaches Us**

### **1. Our Primary Identity Is in Christ**

Paul says, "Our citizenship is in heaven."

Before we are:

- Americans
- Employees
- Business owners
- Parents
- Retirees
- Students

We are citizens of God's Kingdom.

Our relationship with Christ becomes the foundation of our identity.

## **Supporting Scripture**

*"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come."*  
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

## **Biblical Example**

Abraham viewed himself as a stranger on earth because he was looking toward God's eternal promises.

**Reference:** Hebrews 11:8-10

## **Application**

What identities compete with your identity in Christ?

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## **2. Citizens Represent Their Kingdom**

Citizens carry the values and reputation of their homeland.

As citizens of heaven, believers are called to represent Christ through:

- Love
- Integrity
- Humility
- Compassion
- Holiness

- Faithfulness

## **Supporting Scripture**

*"You are the light of the world."* — Matthew 5:14

## **Biblical Example**

Daniel represented God's values while serving in Babylon.

**Reference:** Daniel 6

## **Application**

What message does your life communicate about the Kingdom of God?

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## **3. Our Values Should Reflect Heaven**

Earthly culture often promotes:

- Self-interest
- Pride
- Materialism
- Popularity
- Temporary pleasure

Heavenly citizenship calls us to pursue:

- God's will

- Eternal priorities
- Servanthood
- Faithfulness
- Love

## **Supporting Scripture**

*"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."* — Colossians 3:2

## **Biblical Example**

Moses chose obedience to God over the temporary pleasures of Egypt.

**Reference:** Hebrews 11:24-26

## **Application**

Are your daily priorities more shaped by heaven or by culture?

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## **4. Our Hope Is Anchored in Christ's Return**

Paul says believers eagerly await Jesus.

The Christian life is filled with hope because Christ is coming again.

This promise gives strength during:

- Suffering
- Loss
- Disappointment
- Uncertainty
- Persecution

## **Supporting Scripture**

*"Surely I am coming soon."* — Revelation 22:20

## **Biblical Example**

The early church lived with anticipation of Christ's return.

**Reference:** Acts 1:11

## **Application**

How would your life change if you lived with greater expectation of Christ's return?

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## **5. This World Is Not Our Final Home**

Christians are called to be faithful here while remembering that eternity awaits.

The struggles of this life are temporary.

Our future with Christ is eternal.

## **Supporting Scripture**

*"For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come."* — Hebrews 13:14

## **Biblical Example**

The Apostle Paul endured hardship because he focused on eternal rewards.

**Reference:** 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

## **Application**

What temporary concerns are distracting you from eternal priorities?

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## **Characteristics of Citizens of Heaven**

### **Citizens of Heaven:**

- Live with purpose
- Pursue holiness
- Represent Christ
- Value eternity
- Trust God's promises
- Maintain hope
- Love others well

## **Citizens of Heaven Do Not:**

- Place ultimate trust in earthly systems
  - Find identity solely in worldly success
  - Live only for temporary pleasure
  - Lose hope during hardship
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## **Biblical Examples of Heavenly Citizens**

### **Abraham**

Lived by faith while looking toward God's eternal city.

**Reference:** Hebrews 11

**Lesson:**

Faith looks beyond the present.

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### **Daniel**

Remained faithful in a culture opposed to God's values.

**Reference:** Daniel 6

**Lesson:**

Citizens of heaven stand firm.

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## **Paul**

Focused on eternity despite imprisonment and suffering.

**Reference:** Philippians

**Lesson:**

Hope changes perspective.

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## **Jesus**

Perfectly represented the Kingdom of God.

**Reference:** John 18:36

**Lesson:**

God's Kingdom is our ultimate home.

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## **Discussion Questions**

1. What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven?
2. How does heavenly citizenship shape our identity?

3. Why is it important to remember that this world is not our final home?
  4. What values of heaven should be reflected in our daily lives?
  5. How does the promise of Christ's return strengthen believers?
  6. What earthly distractions most often compete for your attention?
  7. How can you better represent God's Kingdom where you live?
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## **Personal Reflection**

Take time to evaluate your priorities.

Ask yourself:

- Where do I place my hope?
- What shapes my decisions most?
- Am I living more for temporary rewards or eternal purposes?
- How can I better reflect Christ this week?

Remember that your ultimate home is with Jesus.

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## **Weekly Challenge**

## Focus on Eternity

Each day:

- Read a passage about heaven.
- Pray for God's Kingdom to be reflected in your life.
- Look for opportunities to represent Christ.
- Encourage someone with the hope of eternity.

## Memorize

Philippians 3:20

*"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."*

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## Closing Prayer

**Father, thank You that through Jesus Christ I am a citizen of heaven. Help me live in a way that reflects Your Kingdom and brings honor to Your name. Keep my heart focused on eternal things rather than temporary distractions. Strengthen my faith as I await the return of Christ, and help me faithfully represent Him wherever You have placed me. May my life point others toward the hope found in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## **Key Takeaway**

**As citizens of heaven, our identity, hope, and future are secure in Christ. When we live with an eternal perspective, we reflect God's Kingdom and bring His light into the world around us.**