

# Citizens of Heaven

*Philippians 3:20–21*

Outline: **Three characteristics of the heavenly citizen**

Goal: **That we would be equipped to conduct our lives as citizens in a manner worthy of the Gospel (1:27)**

Characteristic #1:

## **The Heavenly Citizen's Posture: Eager Anticipation**

*"The eagerness of the waiting which should characterize the expectant citizens is wonderfully described by the Apostle's expression for it, which literally means 'to look away out' . . . like a sentry on the walls of a besieged city whose eyes are ever fixed on the pass amongst the hills through which the relieving forces are to come." – Alexander MacLaren*

Gal 5:5

1 Cor 1:7

1 Thess 1:9b–10a

Rom 8:23

2 Tim 4:8

What does it mean to eagerly await the return of Christ?

- A. Reflection and Meditation
- B. Steady Focus
- C. Joy
- D. Motivation for Obedience

Matt 22:44-47

*"If we are sure that a given event will come sometime and do not know when it may come, surely the wise man is he who thinks to himself it may come any time, and not he who treats it as if it would come at no time. . . . [Such anticipation] will stimulate all energies in pressing towards the goal, and will turn away our eyes from the trivialities and the transiencies that press upon us." – Alexander MacLaren*

*"Brethren, Jesus is coming! He is even now on the way. You have heard our tidings till you scarcely credit us, but the Word of God is true and it will surely be fulfilled before long. The Lord is coming, indeed! He promised to come to die and He kept His Word—He now promises to come to reign and you may be sure that He will keep His tryst with His people. He is coming! Ears of faith can hear the sound of His chariot wheels! Every moment of time, every event of Providence is bringing Him nearer. Blessed are those servants who shall not be sleeping when He comes, nor wandering from their posts of duty! Happy shall they be whom their Lord shall find faithfully watching and standing fast in that great day!"*

Characteristic #2:

## **The Heavenly Citizen's Prize: Jesus Himself**

Characteristic #3:

## **The Heavenly Citizen's Prospect: Glorification**

*Glorification: "the complete and final redemption of the whole person, when in the integrity of body and spirit, the people of God will be conformed to the image of the risen, exalted, and glorified Redeemer, when the very body of their humiliation will be conformed to the body of Christ's glory." – John Murray*

What will our glorified bodies be like?

- A. Imperishable (1 Cor 15:42)
- B. Glorious (1 Cor 15:43)
- C. Strong / Powerful (1 Cor 15:43)
- D. Spiritual (1 Cor 15:44)

*"That is what is going to happen to me and to you! Therefore let us stand fast. Let us not willfully throw away our prospects of Glory and immortality. What? Relinquish resurrection? Relinquish Heaven? Relinquish likeness to the risen Lord? O God, save us from such a terrible piece of apostasy! Save us from such immeasurable folly! Suffer us not to turn our backs in the day of battle, since that would be to turn our backs from the crown of life that fades not away!"*

1 John 3:2-3

1 Cor 15:54-58

Conclusion: **Stand firm!**

Philippians 4:1