



“Citizens of Heaven”
Philippians 3:17-21
The Joy of Unity: The Book of Philippians

Introduction:

- American history from a British perspective...
- American history from a British perspective...

Philippians 3:17-21 “Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

I. APPRECIATING THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE US (Philippians 3:17)

There is a vast distinction between pilgrims who sacrificed much and tourists who do nothing else but enjoy the fruit of their sacrifice. Studying the history of any earthly country often drives us to appreciate the sacrifices made.

Philippians 3:17 “Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.”

Regarding the Lives of Men and Women of Faith.

“Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful...”

II. RECOGNIZING THE ENEMIES OF KING JESUS (PHILIPPIANS 3:18)

Philippians 3:18 “For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ...”

The Character of Enemies of Cross (Philippians 3:19)

1. Their “end is destruction...”
2. Their “...god is their appetite...”
3. Their “...glory is in their shame...”
4. They “...set their minds on earthly things.”

III. RECOGNIZING FELLOW CITIZENS OF HEAVEN (PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21)

Philippian 3:20 “For our citizenship is in heaven...”

1. Citizens of Heaven eagerly anticipate the return of Christ.

Philippians 3:20 “For our citizenship is in heaven which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...”

2. Citizens of Heaven eagerly await a glorified body.

Philippians 3:21 “...who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory...”

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

3. Citizens of Heaven eagerly expect Christ to rule in His Kingdom.

Philippians 3:21 “...by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

John 18:36-37 Jesus answered (Pontius Pilate), “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Revelation 17:14 “...He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

Regarding the Devotion of Queen Victoria

Revelation 4:8-11 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.” And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

Conclusion:

We are either a Citizen of Heaven or we are not. That right is conferred on us when we accept Christ’s personal and grace-filled invitation to trust in Him alone for our salvation. And when we do, we become eternal citizens of heaven and while we wait for Him to usher in His Heavenly Kingdom, we pledge allegiance to Him as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. Who are some of your Biblical heroes in the faith?
2. Who are some of your heroes in the faith that are not mentioned in the Bible?
3. How do you recognize an “enemy of the cross”?
4. What does it mean to you to be a citizen of heaven?
5. What did you get most out of this message?