

No Dual Citizenship

Philippians 3:17-21

I. The story of Phocus

- A. *The hope of heaven removes fear.*

II. A changed culture.

- A. Pitirim Sorokin: All great civilizations go through three major social changes:

1. *Ideational*—Reality is “spiritual” (outside the self)
2. *Sensate*—Reality is material (All about the self)
3. *Idealistic*—A combination of ideational and sensate.

- B. The western culture as arrived at “sensate”.

1. Once a culture reaches a sensate mentality it embraces decadence and lawlessness, obsession with the self, leading to its extinction as a civilization.

III. Paul’s response to the changed culture.

- A. Philippians 3:7—Paul’s goal in life is to “gain Christ”, to become like Him.

- B. Paul’s charge to us—to change our goals and motivation to be as his.

1. Many Christians have for their motivation is to have the best life possible.
2. Many believe that Christianity is to take care of their every need resulting in a distorted theology.
 - a. Man centered theology.
 - b. Man centered salvation.
 - c. Man centered sanctification.

“The goal of my life is NOT to make sure I’m satisfied... but to make sure God is satisfied.”

THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN LIFE CAN BE BOILED DOWN TO ONE THING... PURSUING CHRIST-LIKENESS... THAT’S IT!!!

IV. Three elements to help us become more and more like Christ.

A. Follow after Godly examples (3:17)

1. We all need godly people to mentor us in our Christian walk.
2. Jesus is the *pattern of perfection*—our end goal.
 - a. We can't follow Jesus pattern to pursue perfection—he was/is perfection.
3. Godly people are the *pattern of the pursuit* of Christ-like perfection.

B. Flee “enemies of the cross” (3:18-19)

1. Enemies of the cross:
 - a. Anyone who diminishes Christ's perfect work on the cross.
 - Adds to it (Legalism)
 - Subtracts from it (Antinomianism).
 - b. Their God is their appetite.
 - c. They reverse moral standards.
 - d. They cultivate an earthly mind.

C. A new motivation (3:20)

1. Our citizenship is in heaven.
2. We eagerly wait for Christ's return.

V. What about heaven?

- A. “It is up...way up...we get there very fast...”
- B. Some passages: Ezekiel 1; Revelation 21 & 22.

VI. What about us (those in Christ).

- A. We will have a transformed body (Philippians 3:21).
 1. We will become like Him (His glory).
- B. Process:
 1. When we die our souls go to be with Jesus, our bodies await transformation.

- a. 2nd Corinthians 5 **absent from the body present with the Lord.**

No Dual Citizenship

Philippians 3:17-21

Sermon Notes

Read Philippians 3:17-21

Each week in our Ethics class we begin with a scenario which leaves us with an ethical decision to discuss...to make... it is NOT the most cherished thing we do for some reason.... I thought I would spare tonight's class from having to deal with it...instead we'll all deal with it this morning!...I am going to use the story I WAS going to use tonight... this morning...I shared this story a few years ago in a different context...

It's an ancient story that historians believe is at least 90% true... it took place back in the year 303... The Roman Empire was at its height... the early church was going through rough times of persecution from Rome.... There was a man who was a gardener living just out of the gates of the city of Sanope on the Black Sea in Asia Minor... His name was Phocas.

His garden was a wonderfully abundant garden which provided him a good income... Travelers would pass by his door all hours of the day and night as they went in and out of the city gates... often they would stop and purchase his fruits and vegetables.

Phocas was known for his generosity and love for people... He would often sit on his porch looking for weary travelers who needed rest and nourishment... He would invite strangers to stay the night... he would feed them both physically and spiritually.... Phocas loved and was passionate about Jesus Christ...

He would share the gospel with those who would listen... at that time... the Roman Emperor Diocletian put out a decree to put all Christians to death... Roman persecutors began searching the cities for Christians...One particular group of Roman soldiers were sent to Sanope specifically to find a Christian named Phocas and put him to death.

On one hot afternoon the soldiers had arrived just outside the city gates... they were almost past the gardener's house when Phocas innocently invited them in for refreshment... he treated them as if they were his warmest of friends... they consented.

So warm and gracious was the hospitality they received that when their host invited them all to spend the night and go on their way refreshed the next morning.... They agreed to do so... **And what is your business?** Phocas asked them...

They told him they would tell him their business only if he would keep it all a secret... Phocas agreed... it was obvious to the soldiers that this man was someone they could trust... so they told Phocas that they were looking for a Christian named Phocas... That because of his Christian beliefs he was thought to be a very dangerous man.....and needed to be executed at once.

They asked him if he knew of this man named Phocas and if he did could he help them locate him... *Oh, I know him very well* Phocas said quietly... *and he is quite near... let's attend to it in the morning after you all have had some rest....*

The soldiers retired... Phocas sat thinking... *I could escape... I have plenty of friends that would hide me until the soldiers left... I could flee... I could be 20 miles away before the soldiers would wake up...*

If you were Phocas...what would you do?_____...

He didn't struggle with the options... what he did was go out into his garden with a shovel and began digging his own grave, in the middle of the night... *was there any earthly thing that he loved more than this little plot of land.... The odor of mulch... the feel of the soil... the miracle of fertility...*

What were his thoughts?...*There was still time to run, but my Savior didn't run.... He didn't run from Gethsemane.... He didn't run from Calvary...He didn't run from the cross.... And these executioners.... They are only carrying out their orders... if they failed to find me... they would surely be put to death... and they would die in their sins.*

By dawn the grave was dug... morning came and when the executioners came in for breakfast.... **I AM PHOCAS** he said calmly... it is recorded that the men stood there motionless... shocked... for a long period of time... they couldn't believe it... *how could a man so generous, so caring, so hospitable and sacrificial be dangerous?*

How could they perform an execution on a man that deserves nothing but mercy?... As they stood there... Phocas told them they needed to fulfill the task they were ordered to perform... he told them he was not bitter at them... he told them that death did not terrify him... **his heart was full of the hope of Jesus Christ and of heaven.**

Toward the soldiers... he bore nothing less than the love of Jesus Christ... in a few moments it was all over... the sword had done its work... and the body of the man who was mastered by the love of Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life with him in heaven.... Lay in the stillness of death in the garden he loved so dearly.

One commentator of this story concluded... *The hope of heaven removes fear...*

A story like this is foreign to us living here in Moscow Idaho in 2022... We might admire Phocas for what he did... his commitment to Christ... His fearlessness in dying... let's be honest... but most of us in this room would probably consider the other options a bit more... We don't have too many examples like Phocas in our culture today...

So willing to accept the apparent finality of death... after all... we all want to live right?... I mean we all want to live life to its fullest... smell the roses... enjoy the beautiful sunsets... to approach life more like Henry David Thoreau:

*I did not wish to live what was not **life**, **living is so dear**; nor did I wish to practice resignation... I wanted to live deep and **suck out all the marrow of life**...*

That's more like it... To let go of it so easily... so simply... without an argument... without a fight... that's for another time... an earlier era... today we embrace life... **don't mistake me here this morning**... don't think I think we shouldn't love life and embrace it fully.... That is not the message this morning.... I love life.. I like Thoreau want to suck the marrow out of it... I don't mind getting out of bed on Monday mornings.... Eventually.... But this life as our goal?... our purpose?... our motivation?... that is another thing...

Pitirim Sorokin ... the Russian born later American sociologist of the last century...

His magnum opus was a work called *Social and Cultural Dynamics*... in this work he identified what he called the *cultural mentality*... The big civilizations of the world usually go through three stages of cultural development... [cultural dismantling!]

"**Ideational**" (reality is spiritual.... Outside the self.), "**sensate**" (reality is material), or "**idealistic**" (a synthesis of the two). He suggested that major civilizations evolve from an ideational to an idealistic, and eventually to a sensate mentality... once a culture reaches a sensate mentality it embraces decadence and lawlessness... obsession with the self... leading to its extinction as a civilization... . He claimed nearly 100 years ago that modern United States has arrived at Sensate....

A materialistic mentality is a mentality obsessed with the self.... marked with decadence and lawlessness...

[cycle throughout the Bible...]

We are now primarily a culture based upon the self.... With an obsession with materialism... we are obsessed with comfort... pleasure... experiences... we want desperately hold on to this life... suck the marrow out of this life... **because this is it!**... life is dear...

it is so very precious...and we want it now... there is no room for any delayed gratification...and we're for the most part horrified at the thought of it all ending... death....so displayed over the last two years over the Covid pandemic.

And so one's motivation in this life... our culture... is to get... to have... possess.... To experience... to hold on to...Carpe Diem... and for us Christians... we may know better... but we too have been greatly influenced by this sensate culture.... Many have been given over to it

So when we hear of people like Phocas... we are amazed... we read passages like Philippians 3 and we are amazed at people like the apostle Paul... who had status...wealth... privilege... prestige before he became a Christian...he had it made.... And then to lose it all... willingly!

To then say (3:7) **But whatever things were gain to me, those things I count as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... for whom I have suffered the loss of ALL things and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.**

Remember that word "rubbish" is not trash... *skubalon... the excrement of animals...*

Last time we looked in detail at those incredible verses... we saw that Paul had one over-arching goal in life... it wasn't to become sensate!... it was to become more and more like Jesus Christ... **his goal in ALL of life was to "gain Christ"...** to be "*found in Him*"... to "*know Him*" and the **power of His resurrection**"... to have eternal life in Him...

Paul said he hadn't laid a hold of all that perfectly "yet"... But that he was "**pressing on**" toward that goal... **and he called all of us to do the same**... how do we do that?... how do we press on?.... or more specifically...today... what is our motivation?...

I think many Christians have the wrong motivation... It is the result of being caught in two worlds... The spiritual and the sensate...most Christians are more in the idealistic classification... the combination of God and the world...and are trying to make that work...

[Most of us live in the grey areas...]

some begin the Christian life with the motivation that by getting Christ in their life that it will make their life a better life... motivation in life?... to get the best life possible...

That's the outcome they are desiring and that becomes their motivation in their Christian life... *If I embrace the Christian faith... I will have a great marriage with my spouse...yet, some good Christians have terrible marriages..... if I embrace the Christian faith my children will turn out ok... some great Christians have really stinky children!*

So many people after living terribly immoral lives have children and think... *we'd better get in a church!.... we want these rascals to grow up better than we did!*

You can be the most amazing Christian parents and your children may not turn out ok... *If I embrace the Christian faith... I will be freed from my addiction....* Yet... there are many Christians who are battling with addiction...and do so through their entire life... IF YOUR **MOTIVATION** IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE... you are setting yourself up for disappointment!....[you WILL have a better life...]

Once you've accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior... if you think that now the goal in your Christian life is to get your needs met... you are greatly mistaken... That is being obsessed with the self... self is all about your needs and having them taken care of for you... unfortunately...

Even much of the church is all about taking care of everyone's needs.... We look at the Bible... we look at Jesus and say things like "*He will take care of your every "need"*" the idea that God is here to serve us... [instead of us serving God...]

A man centered theology

A man centered salvation

A man centered sanctification

Eliminating all MY problems... my difficulties... discomforts... the truth is... none of this is the goal of our theology... salvation or sanctification... the goal of sanctification is **that you might be conformed to the image of God's Son...**

The goal of my life is NOT to make sure I'm satisfied... but to make sure God is satisfied...

humanistic needs psychology has morphed into Christian needs theology... you have a man centered sanctification rather than a Christ centered sanctification...

[Why do you always preach negative stuff?... why do I go home feeling bad?...hey...if you can read this book and say "HEY, I'VE GOT IT DOWN!....great!...but you're lying or deceived!...I'm not trying to make us feel bad.... But my goal is not to make you feel good at the expense of God's truth!...there are plenty of places that you can go to feel good...we have an eternal goal here....]

The Christian life is centered on a faith that looks OUT... Christian sanctification is the pursuit of something OUTSIDE the self not something inside myself.... It is the pursuit of Christ-likeness....

The more I search for Him in God's word... the more I seek Him in my personal life.... in my prayer life... the more I learn about Him.. the more Christ-like I will become...the Christian life... as Paul has been showing us is pressing towards a goal....it's not about goosbumbs...

That goal is not to satisfy my own needs.... To make me be satisfied... the goal of my life is to become like Christ...that's the apostle Paul.... Paul's life is obsessed with becoming like Christ...and the result of that by the way as we will see in chapter four is we will have the ultimate joy... and have a peace that surpasses all understanding..... good news! AMEN?

Verse 8... I count everything on this earth.... All possessions all material stuff... position... fame... status... as loss... all I want is one thing... the prize (V.14)... the goal... **the goal is to be conformed to the image of God's Son.....**

LET'S MAKE THIS REAL SIMPLE... THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN LIFE CAN BE BOILED DOWN TO ONE THING...can I simplify everything right now?... THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ABOUT PURSUING CHRIST-LIKENESS... THAT'S IT!!

And that requires a change in our focus... a change in where we rest our eyes on and put our hearts on...away from THIS WORLD that is dying to our eternal heavenly world where Jesus resides.... Heaven.

Our citizenship is not this place... our citizenship is in heaven (20)...

[when I do funeral services... memorial services... the best thing I can say is “so and so is in heaven....” and everyone nods their head... but everyone is thinking... *so glad its him than me...* I don't want to die!

The thing is... even if you have it really, really great here on earth.... It is no better than having the President's Suite on the Titanic.... It's all going down!... so we realize we are not the world's... we are His... and we press on to become more and more like Jesus Christ,,,

What are the elements that will help us get there?... Paul gives us three things: 1. Follow godly examples...2. Flee from enemies of the gospel.... 3. Keep focused on our eternity with Christ...

1. We must follow after godly examples

Read verse 17

We all need help in our Christian walk... God has placed people in our lives to help us in that walk... we all need mentors... no matter how smart... self-assured...and self- sufficient you think you are... you lack some things that you can learn from others.... God has placed people in your life....

Paul says.... *Follow my example... and follow others who walk in the same pattern of life... ... if you follow my example... if you have the same mind and do the same type of things I do... you will be on your way to arriving at the goal...*

This isn't Paul being arrogant... this is Paul being a spiritual leader... a discipler... there is a pattern of walking through this life that ends up at the goal... and there are patterns in this life that will get you there and there are patterns in this life that fall way short of the goal....

Why don't I just follow Jesus?... everyone else is flawed.

Christ is the perfect model... "Christ is the pattern of perfection"... He's the end.... He is the telos of the Christian life... He is our destination... BUT Paul and others like him are our the pattern of the pursuit of that perfection...

I want to arrive at being Christlike... I want Him to be my focus... but I can't use Him as a model to get there... why not?... WE CAN'T FOLLOW THE PATH JESUS WAS ON>>> Jesus didn't follow some path to perfection... **He never processed into perfection**... JESUS CHRIST HAS ALWAYS BEEN PERFECTION.... So we need to follow imperfect people who have been moved into the direction of Christ-likeness.

Do you see?... As I follow others who have gone before me in pursuit of becoming like Christ... I can learn from their successes and from their failures... Paul says **Brothers join in my example... and look for those who walk according to the pattern you have in us...**

We all need models that have been through it.... who have been successful in their walk in Christ... this is called discipleship!

This is why leadership... godly leadership is so important...

2. We are to flee enemies

Read verse 18

Follow my example and you will be helped on your journey... BUT there are many who will harm you on your journey... and there are not just a few.... There are **MANY (18).... For many walk...**

Interesting way Paul puts that... **many walk...there's a lot of people walking the walk**...he's not talking about obvious enemies of the Christian faith... those are easy to spot... they're vocal about it... they're in your face... these are people who are walking with you... these are the people **IN THE CHURCH** who are doing great harm to the true people of God.

That's why Paul is so upset.... It says he's crying... he's crying because people he thought were his brothers in Christ turned out to be what he calls **enemies of the cross**...who are enemies of the cross?.... anyone who diminishes the work of the cross of Jesus Christ....

Those who **ADD** to the cross and those who **SUBTRACT** from the cross....

1. Judaisers... they **added** to the work of the cross.... they added works (You must be circumcised).

2. Some gentiles **subtracted** from the work of the cross...it didn't matter how you lived... as long as you accepted Jesus His grace will cover anything you do... several philosophies of the day [Gnosticism]... divided a person in two parts.... Body and soul.... Soul was good, body evil...nothing good comes from the body..... so expect it to be bad....sin all your body wants.... It's the soul that matters.

Antinomian philosophy... rampant in the church today... it doesn't matter how you live... Jesus loves you [expound] Anti = against Nomian = Law.... Against law.

Enemies to the cross of Christ—these are not the obvious... these are not the blatant deniers of Christ... these are insiders... they say they are the friends of Christ... they identify with Christ... they teach Sunday School... but they are enemies of the cross....

Read verse 19

Not going to end well for these people.... don't follow their walk!

1. Their god is their appetite... *their god is their belly*... another way to put it... more general is... ***their devotion to self-indulgence***... they are no longer really in control over themselves... they have placed themselves under the lordship of their self-indulgences...***their appetites dictate their lives***...

Paul is being very general here... he is not naming specific sins like... addiction... fornicators... he doesn't list details of specific sins...he just says "appetites"... I think this is brilliant... had he listed sins... we might pride ourselves on not having a problem with "*any of those*"... he lumps everything into one gigantic pot of sin...appetites that **pander to the self!**... to where we can all say "ouch!"

2. The reversal of moral standards—they glory in their shame... in other words... one ***should be ashamed*** of doing something... but instead...they embrace and exalt it!... does that happen in the church?... OF COURSE IT DOES!... but it is a stage downward!...so much upsidedownness in the world AND church today.... We should be ashamed but we're not...

Often for the Christian it goes something like this.... *I know it is wrong... but I did it anyway... I liked it... then justify doing it... and then accept it..... it's now a proper and allowable thing to do in this life....*

This is what Isaiah meant when he observed **those who call evil good and good evil...** it is a reversal of God's moral standards... exchanging darkness for light... all rooted in the desire for self- pleasure.... It is another stage downward.... Then finally:

3. A cultivation of an earthly mind—who **set their minds** on earthly things...

To set your mind is the same thing as “cultivating”... you are intentional and diligent on where you are putting your mind... your thoughts...to bring a garden to harvest there is much cultivating going on.

the very center of one’s being... the place where one finds direction... where attitudes and habits... and tendencies are formed....the mind!

The mind!... what you set it on determines your direction... downward or upward...In Romans Paul tells us to **not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...**

Getting the mind off the world..... and on to those things that are **good acceptable and perfect!** Those who cultivate an earthly mind are headed for destruction....

So... how do we continue upward?... *what is our motivation?*.... we find it in the last two verses:

Read verses 20-21

There’s our motivation!...two parts... one... ***our citizenship is in heaven!***... that’s the fact we can rest on... great comfort in that... more on that in a minute... AND... with that as a fact we can rest on... while we are waiting to get there... ***we are EAGERLY waiting for the return of the Lord Jesus...***

Because when Jesus comes.... He is going to transform us to be like Him... (that’s the prize)... He’s got the power to do all that!... **eternity in heaven with a transformed me into the image of Christ is my motivation!**... we have a **“heavenly perspective!”**... we take our eyes off this world...we move our passions from below to above... from darkness to light...we move them from *sensate* back to *ideational!*... from the material back to the spiritual!

Remember verse 14 from two weeks ago?... **I press on toward the upward call of God in Jesus Christ?....** the time is coming when the Lord will call you up to meet Him and be forever with Christ... **THAT’S OUR FOCUS....** That was Paul’s focus....

Paul said... Every muscle in my body... everything I have is pushing toward that day... the only reason I’m still here is to do the work that God wants me to do!... at the end of 2nd Timothy he said **I’ve finished the course, I’ve kept the faith... and I’m ready to get out of here!...**

I’M READY TO GET THE CROWN OF LIFE WHICH THE LORD... THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE WILL AWARD ME ON THAT DAY.. AND NOT ONLY TO ME... BUT TO ALL OF THEM THAT LOVE HIS APPEARING.

How much do you think about heaven?... he says **(20) our citizenship is in heaven....** Let me help you see the wonder in that... perhaps make it your motivation.... Added to that Paul writes... **from which we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus.**

Jesus is in heaven... and He's coming back... that's what John 4 meant when Jesus said to His disciples... **I'm going away and if I go I will come again and receive you unto Myself that where I am you may be also....**

And later **I'm going away, in My Father's house are many rooms, I'm going to prepare them for you...I'm going to come back....I'm going to get you... take you... to be with me...** so we are waiting for Christ to take us with Him to heaven.... **WE'RE NOT WAITING FOR AN EVENT.... WE ARE WAITING FOR A PERSON!**

And He's going to take us with Him to heaven!... I think there are people who don't want to go to heaven because they think they will miss something... some like their sin so much they know there won't be any of that up there!...*what will we do?*

I've heard people say things like *I don't want Jesus to come back until I get to go to Europe...or get married... by a house....* Paul says... You belong in heaven!.. That's where your citizenship is!

*What about heaven?.... where is heaven?..[I like what J. MacArthur said about heaven}. let me tell you what the Bible says....where is heaven?...write this down... The Bible says **IT IS UP!...** Revelation 4:1 **Come UP here...** How far up?..... **WAY UP!...**2nd Corinthians 12:2 says it's the 3rd heaven....*

*How long does it take to get there?.... **VERY FAST!...** the Bible says **absent from the body present with the Lord** (2nd Cor. 5:8)...Jesus said to the thief on the cross... **today you will be with Me in paradise...** It doesn't take long to get there...*

Heaven is UP... it is FAR... we get there FAST!.... What is heaven like?.... that's a month of Sundays!.... but you can read it on your own (I've put these in your outline):

Ezekiel 1 Description of heaven in the Old Testament.... When you read that you will scratch your head.

Revelation 21 and 22 Pearls, light, gold, angels, temples, absence of tears... no pain... no death, crying, sorrow or pain... everything will be perfect.... Holy angels are there... everyone found in Christ will be there...

It even has a capital city.. the New Jerusalem... it's incredible... it's beyond what the mind can possibly grasp!.... that's where our Savior lives and that will be the final home for all believers in Jesus Christ.... So we eagerly wait!.. we wait for Jesus... and we wait for heaven... that is our motivation!

Back to Philippians 3 verse 21.. it tells us more why we are waiting for Christ.... **He will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory....** We are waiting for Him because we want this!... a transformed body!.... anyone here want a transformed body?

Get rid of this problematic... sinful... aging... tired body?... HE WILL MAKE US LIKE HIMSELF!.....If you are a Christian... You've already been made into a "new creation"... but that is the "inner man"... Your soul... OUR PROBLEM IS.... Our INNER man is trapped in UNREDEEMED SINFUL FLESH!...the outer man.

And when I say "flesh"... I'm not just talking about outer epidermis... It's deeper than that... it's also the mind of the flesh... we all have unredeemed humanness in which our NEW CREATION dwells in... and they are at war with each other (Galatians 5)!

I don't know about you... but I want to be redeemed from that flesh!.. *WHEN DOES THIS HAPPEN?*.... listen to this:... the moment you die... any time before Jesus returns... today, tomorrow... your BODY goes to the grave... your inner person.... Your spirit goes immediately to be with Christ....

2nd Corinthians 5... **absent from the body present with the Lord**... remember back in Philippians 1 **it is far better to depart and be with Christ**... when you die... your spirit goes up... way up... far up.. and fast.... To be with Christ... how long?... forever!

At this moment.. Heaven is occupied by spirits made perfect... waiting for their bodies!... and the bodies of the dead are waiting for the return of Jesus Christ!... our bodies will be resurrected in the future.... The bodies of all those Old Testament saints are waiting to be resurrected as well!

When you die here... your spirit goes to heaven but your body has to be changed... Jesus... when He returns will transform our dead bodies... *But what if I got cremated?.... how can He transform my body?*[Sensitive issue with many]...*SERIOUSLY?*..... Don't worry!... He can do it!...He created man from dust... He created dust!...He can restore anything!

In verse 21 that word "**transformed**" is the Greek word *meta-schematizo*... the word "schematic" comes from it... a schematic is a internal design of something.... So what is going to happen is God is going to **re-schematic us**! He is literally going to transform us... a new schematic... a refashioning...

We will be given an entirely new body!!! AMEN?... and that body will THEN be acceptable to enter heaven.... Our bodies are flesh and they must be transformed... they must be redeemed!...

What will we be like in heaven? We will have a perfect soul.. a perfect spirit... a perfect inner part and a perfect outer part. We will totally glorify our God... we will be sinless... all that inhibits us from doing what God wants us to do will be gone... there will be perfect freedom from evil....

No sin...no sorrow... no disappointment.... No doubt... no more repentance... no more having to confess... no fear... no temptation... no weakness... no failure... no hate... no anger... no quarrels... perfect unlimited pleasure... perfect knowledge.... Perfect unlimited comfort... perfect love... perfect relationships.... Perfect joy... perfect peace...

Well... I like it better here!...

Oh...come on!

One of my commentaries made a good point.... *It would have been enough for God to save us from hell....and more than enough if He then just gave us heaven.... Eternity with Him.... But beyond that... HE MAKES US LIKE HIS SON!.. and He does it all by grace... we don't deserve ANY of it!*

That word “conformity” in verse 21 is *summorphos*... we get the word “morph” from that... morph.... *To change from one form to a completely different form...* **we will be morphed into the form of Christ**... amazing!.... How's Jesus Christ going to do this?... the end of verse 21 is an amazing sentence...

Read verse 21`

What this says is... the same awesome power that made the entire universe... the same power that created the world and everything in it... the same power that keeps it all going... holds it all together...(Colossians 1)... that same power that gives life and takes life... that is the same power that will raise your body and mine out of the grave....

Refashion it...restore it...and make us into the image of His Son.