

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Citizens of Heaven

With Phil Harwood
June 21, 2026



Philippians 3:17-21 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. ¹⁸ For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. ²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Saviour. ²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control

Paul is pointing followers of Jesus towards two essential, intertwined truths:

1) When we follow Jesus, we become citizens of heaven first and foremost.

2) Jesus has an incredible future in store for us and for creation, which will be brought to its fulness when he returns as our Saviour.

Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT) Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. ¹² His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. ¹³ He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. ¹⁶ On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

Revelation 21:1-7

Revelation 21:22-27

Revelation 22:1-5 (NLT) Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. ³ No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

Big Idea: We can live as joyful people when we live with heaven in view & eternity in mind.

- We cannot be good citizens on earth unless we are first citizens of heaven.
- We cannot have perspective on this life here on earth unless we are first citizens of heaven.
- We cannot be disciple-making disciples of Jesus unless we live as citizens of heaven.

So - what do we do to live with joy like Paul describes?

1) Get to know Jesus and God's promises:

2) Examine your life in light of the hope Jesus has promised.

3) Work this out in the context of community.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Citizens of Heaven
#11 of 15 - June 21, 2026

Context

1. Read Philippians 3:17-21. What is the context for these passages? What point is Paul trying to make to his audience?

Observation

2. What is the contrast Paul describes between people who focus on life on earth and those who live as citizens of heaven?
3. Read the following passages from Revelation.
 - a) Revelation 21:1-7
 - b) Revelation 21:22-27
 - c) Revelation 22:1-5
4. What aspects of the picture painted in these passages stand out to you most? What makes you excited and what questions do you have?

Meaning

5. How does living as a citizen of heaven first and foremost impact how we live as citizens of Canada or another country?
6. Have you felt or seen others whose hope rises or falls according to government decisions? What perspective does being a citizen of heaven bring?
7. Revelation 21:26 says “all the nations will bring their glory and honour into the city” when Jesus returns and brings his Kingdom in its fulness. What would you look forward to seeing or experiencing *as it is really meant to be*?

Application

8. How does living as a citizen of heaven impact being a disciple-making disciple of Jesus?
9. Is there an action step that the Holy Spirit is prompting you to take in regard to Philippians 3:17-21?



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