



FIRST BAPTIST
— CHURCH —
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 23: Our Citizenship Is in Heaven

Philippians 3:20–21 *Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

This is 'expectancies' true hope and motivation, "Our citizenship is in heaven." The word used here is *politeuma* and it carried a special significance for the Philippians who lived in a Roman colony. They were far from Rome, but they were still Roman citizens, lived by Rome's customs, held Rome's values, and looked to Rome as home even while dwelling somewhere else. Paul uses this illustration to explain the Christian's reality. We live here, but we belong there. As colonists of heaven stationed on earth, and from our true homeland "we await our Savior."

This citizenship should change how we hold everything in this world. A tourist or even a Green Card holder does not sink his whole heart into a country he's only passing through. He may enjoy the sights and sounds, he may engage in business, serve, or even contribute to the general success of the culture; but he doesn't mistake the temporary residence for home. This is the antidote to worldliness that so often escapes us. We often become worldly, not through dramatic sin, but through the slow over-attachment to our temporary dwelling place. Our identity, security, and heart become attached to things that cannot last. Remembering where our citizenship truly lies loosens that grip.

Notice what Paul says we await 'for'. When we are homesick, its not just the comfort of our own bed, the familiarity with our own rhythm or the sense of security from our own walls; its is our family and friends that we have left behind that make us long to get back. Christian expectancy is about longing for the Redeemer whom we have not visibly met but only know in our hearts and conscience; and yet we still long to be with "our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Notice what that Jesus will do upon our reunion: "transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body." The expectant Christian isn't waiting merely to

escape earth; he's waiting for the full redemption of everything, even these frail, failing, aging bodies. For what is sown in weakness will be raised in glory.

This is where expectancy becomes a source of profound comfort, not just discipline. For the sojourning believer who is worn down by a body that hurts, a world that disappoints, and a life that feels heavy, Paul lifts our thoughts homeward reminding us that this is not all there is. This is not home. Our Savior is coming from our true country, and He will make all things, including ourselves, gloriously new. Live today as a citizen of that better place, and let the customs of your homeland: its holiness, hope, love, peace, joy and grace, be the mark you leave while staying in this foreign land.

TAKE AWAY

You're a citizen of heaven stationed on earth. Do not give your heart to a country you are only passing through. Let the customs of your true home shine through you, today.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to help you live today as a citizen of heaven, holding this world loosely and awaiting your Savior from your true home.