

Rejoice in All Circumstances: Citizens of Heaven

Reflect

1. How do you practice your earthly citizenship?
2. How do you feel when you see your country's flag?
3. How important to you is your heavenly citizenship?

Read Your Bible

- Philippians 3:15-21

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Paul is writing that mature Christians see the accomplishments of this world as less than a relationship with Jesus that brings eternal life. So, are you a mature, immature, or maturing Christian?
2. What is in the minds of those who are enemies of the cross?
3. As you read about the enemies of the cross, have you ever fit that description?
4. What changed in you to move away from earthly things?

5. What does the word “citizenship” convey to you?

6. How does “citizenship” help you understand heaven and life with Jesus?

7. If our citizenship is in heaven, what does that mean for us now?

Conclusion

Jim Reeves penned the song “This World Is Not My Home.” The sentiment of the song echoed in the lesson from Philippians. Paul encourages us to be mature, and mature eyes begin to see that the flesh that embodies us and all that this broken world offers pales in comparison to knowing Jesus. The question then comes back to us, “how mature are you?” Earlier in the letter, Paul even declares that he is in the process of pressing on, maturing. It’s hard to not listen to our stomachs. It’s hard to let our ego go that is so deeply motivated by accomplishment and awards. But mature Christians do just that, we let go of this world. It’s not our home. We are just pilgrims here. Our citizenship is in heaven, and Jesus will bring us home.

Pray

Heavenly Father, let Your Spirit work deep in our lives so that we may mature in faith. Help us to see ever more clearly that our home is with Jesus. Help us to let go of earthly pleasure and run toward loving You. May our lives be an example for others to see Jesus in what we say and do. In His name we pray. Amen.